



“ Culture in its broadest sense – from books and football to music, food and travel – for those who love Spain and all things Spanish. ”

The Anglo-Spanish Society Review 230 Winter 2011

La Revista



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Young London



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From the Editor

This issue of LA REVISTA will, I hope, warm your hearts and focus your minds as the winter draws in. I am delighted to welcome on board as deputy editor, Lola Oduba. One of our growing crop of young members, Lola is a graduate from Sussex University and a passionate linguist who has spent time living in Andalusia. Spaniards living in London have told us they would like to know about the English capital, beyond their limited environment of work and (temporary) home, so Lola has provided some hot tips. I am also pleased to share with you news of a new, exciting business venture - Book4Spain - which, along with offering readers some exclusive discounts, proves that good ideas and new opportunities are worth pursuing, despite the adverse economic climate. Other articles once again show a generous scope of interesting subjects and quality contributors led by Catalan author and journalist Elena Moya who spoke at this year's international Hay Festival of Literature and the Arts in Segovia, and our unflagging trends spotter Estefanía Ruilope, along with food, football, and much more... LA REVISTA goes from strength to strength but we do not rest on our laurels. We depend on our corporate support and we take the views of our readers very seriously. So, if you are a member, please fill and return the questionnaire and tell us what you think about us. Feedback has been very positive so far, but we need to find out more about your interests and what you would like the A-S Society to offer in future.



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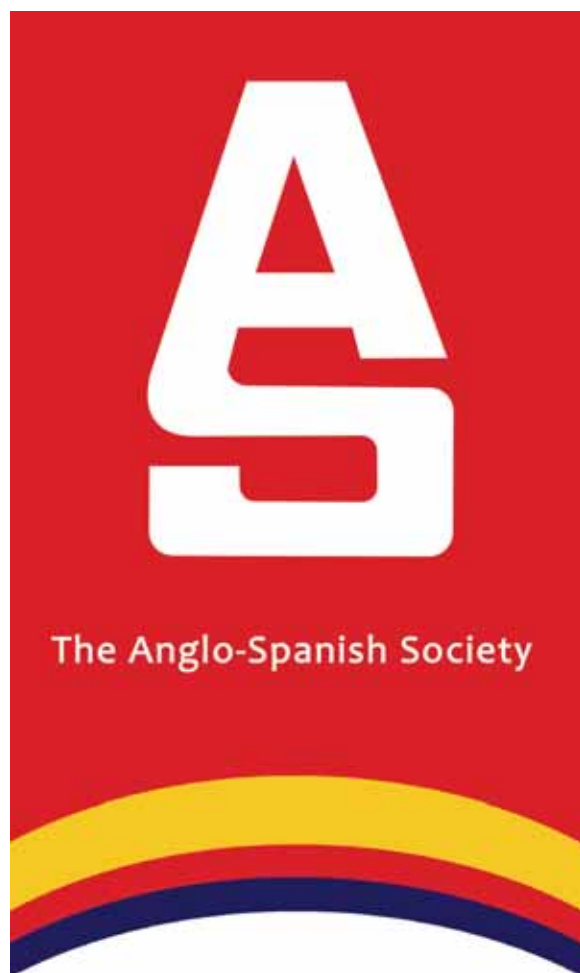
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The next issue of La Revista is due to appear in March 2012 and will be particularly focused on language and education relevant to Anglo-Spanish relations. Contribution ideas and advertising for consideration should be emailed to Larevista@anglospanishsociety.org.

The opinions expressed throughout this issue of La Revista represent those of the authors and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Anglo-Spanish Society or those of their supporters.

The Anglo-Spanish Society is a registered charity: 1080250

EVENTS DIARY



Mark the dates and don't forget to book!

December 13th 7pm - The very popular ANGLO-SPANISH SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY. Venue: Canning House. One of the highlight social events of the year - good food, good drink, good prizes and excellent company!

January 12th 9am - PRIVATE VISIT TO COURTAULD GALLERY. Exhibition: 'Drawings from Ribera to Picasso'. Venue: Somerset House. Exclusive experience but please book early as numbers are limited.

March 22nd 9pm - YOUNG MEMBERS NETWORKING DRINKS. Venue: to be confirmed.

April 11th 7pm - ANNUAL CLASSICAL CONCERT. The return of another much liked event – music from some of Spain's best young musicians. Venue: to be confirmed.

May 12th - LONDON'S SEVENS RUGBY MATCH AT TWICKENHAM STADIUM. Another must for the diary: a new event that will be well worth it.

June 10th 12pm - PICNIC AND FAMILY DAY - another innovation that should be great fun! Venue: to be confirmed.

Late June (date to be confirmed) - The Anglo-Spanish Society's hugely popular SUMMER PARTY at the Spanish Embassy.

Please visit our website for dates and times and for additional events which may come up at short notice. Also check the events emails we send you periodically. For further details and bookings contact events secretary Beatriz Gago on 07903801576 or email info@anglospanishsociety.org

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Early September had one half of London groaning about the summer they hadn't had, and the other wishing they had a few more days of summer left. So, with a perfect sense of timing we went ahead with our latest Young Members evening, on this occasion at Bar & Co – a bar, restaurant and nightclub permanently moored on the Thames. The location of one of London's more original Spanish 'boats' near Temple tube station on the Embankment, meant that the party was within easy striking distance for many City workers in urgent need of relaxation after another tough day dealing with the Euro crisis. But the party also drew many other young members from further afield, similarly attracted by the prospect of making new friends, tasting perhaps the last of the summer wine, and sampling some paella. It proved another popular evening in our increasingly imaginative and diverse events programme with which we aim



by Observer

ABOARD THE

right: Alex Crombie and Lisa Alwinckle





Kidge Burns, Andrew Wallace, Jimmy Burns and Lucia Lindsay

Photos by Adrian Ruiz



A PRIVATE MIRÓ VIEWING

As we reported in the last issue of *La Revista*, the Joan Miró retrospective, entitled *The Ladder of Escape* at the Tate Modern was one of the most exciting and fascinating art exhibitions to come to London in recent years. The show, in the words of art critic Adrian Searle, “brought out Miró’s art not just in its most characteristic guises –playful, childlike, direct–” but also reflected the “international Catalan” and internal exile in Franco’s Spain.

On the extended (due to popular demand) summer exhibition’s last day, a group of A-S members enjoyed an exclusive private viewing of the stunning show. Our very own Steve Bunn, design editor of *La Revista* and lectures at the Royal College of Art, provided expert’s guidance, helping those present to understand and appreciate the extraordinary talent of this Catalan artist whose work spans many decades. With his characteristic energy and enthusiasm, Steve led his attentive audience back and forth along the two beautifully installed octagonal rooms so they could grasp and reflect on the full scope and complexity of Miró’s art.

After their tour, members gathered for some mid-morning coffee on the gallery’s balcony with its stunning view of the River Thames and St Paul’s Cathedral. Another coup for the Society’s Events team! Many thanks to Steve for his expertise and Lucia Lindsay, who helped organise the event, against the odds

Steve Bunn lives and works in London. He studied sculpture at the Royal College of Art. Visit www.stevebunn.co.uk for more information

GOOD SHIP BARCO LATINO

to keep our members happy, and of course raise funds for the Society, in co-operation with the owners of Bar & Co, one of our new corporate supporters.

As promised, the evening provided A-S members with exclusive access to one of the most fun Spanish venues in London and proved a very special networking evening with delicious tapas, a bar open till late, and our very own DJ providing the best in chill-out and dance music into the late hours. To celebrate those who were there, and share a flavour of the evening with those



above: María Soriano Casado, Beatriz Gago and Juan Pablo García Denis

who missed out, we have made a video and posted it on our website and Facebook. Here is the link: <http://bit.ly/uOxV7y>



A-S SOCIETY LIFE

Anglo-Spanish society members head north as YSP presents an extraordinary body of new and recent work by renowned Spanish artist Jaume Plensa. Encouraging tactile and sensory exploration, this vibrant exhibition includes a 50-metre curtain of poetry made of suspended steel letters, large illuminated sculptures in the landscape, and engraved gongs that visitors can strike to fill the gallery with sound.

For those who might think that we are too London-centric, this was an occasion for the truly adventurous – yes, an event not just out of London, but north of Watford!

The English summer –if we ever really had one– may have been at an end but this did not dissuade an intrepid group of members travelling to Wakefield in the north of England, for a very special visit to Yorkshire Sculpture Park with an exclusive guided tour by the curator of the exhibition, Sarah Coulson. The weather was excellent: sunny and with a temperature of up to 29°C. Really exceptional weather for the Yorkshire autumn! The visit included a typical Yorkshire selection for lunch, with freshly made pies, salads, fruit, beverages and a variety of



local cheeses. The food and the glorious rural backdrop provided a perfect setting in which to appreciate the work of celebrated Spanish artist and sculptor in residence Jaume Plensa over a leisurely tour that lasted close to two hours.

All visitors were impressed by the diversity and quality of Plensa's work, which has been hugely successful in many countries and proved a huge hit



by observer

in the UK also. This exhibition has received the largest amount of visitors at Yorkshire Sculpture Park since its inauguration. Such is its popularity, the exhibition has been extended until January 2012, and so members who missed this event still have an opportunity to head north. Yorkshire Sculpture Park has invited the society to return next year so hopefully all members who missed this event and our exclusive private viewing earlier this year at the Tate Modern can join in 2012 for a visit to the planned Miró exhibition.

Sprawling across five hundred acres, Yorkshire Sculpture Park has been exhibiting breathtaking art from around the world since its inception in 1977. With 250,000 visitors each year, the rolling hills of Wakefield have played host to world renowned exhibitions,



making it one of the finest locations on the world to see large scale pieces set against a glorious rural backdrop.

Muchas gracias to Fidel López Álvarez from the Office of Cultural and Scientific Affairs of the Embassy of Spain for making this event possible and arranging a curatorial tour of the exhibition. Thanks, too, to José Ramón Rodiño for his hard work organizing this event and taking care of all the details.

Standing Room Only at the Luis Vives

“Hackgate” may have given certain aspects of the British media a bad name, but the wave of popular disgust clearly does not extend to all journalists. The Daily Telegraph’s veteran and widely respected assistant editor Christopher Howse, in conversation with the former FT journalist and our vice-chairman Jimmy Burns, drew a large appreciative audience to the Spanish embassy’s Luis Vives room.

The latest media tertulia to be sponsored jointly by the Institute of Cervantes and the Anglo-Spanish Society, marked the recent publication of Howse’s latest book *A Pilgrim in Spain*, based on a series of travels through the present and past of Castile. Burns admitted to playing devil’s advocate after noting with relish Howse’s dislike of discos and the AVE high-speed Spanish trains and suggest-

ing that this was just another romantic Englishman forever wishing that Spain remain poor, picturesque, and “different” as Franco’s tourist posters used to proclaim. Burns nevertheless praised Howse’s erudition and finely detailed descriptions in the book, including six pages dedicated to the rejas at the Monastery of El Escorial, and moving descriptions of the Mozarabic Mass in Toledo, St John of the Cross and St Teresa of Avila, visiting the relics of such saints and filling us in with remarkable revelations of note along the way (how many of us would have known that General Franco kept St Teresa’s mummified arm on his desk?) But don’t be put off; there is plenty about Spanish food and bars in *A Pilgrim in Spain* (reviewed by Adrian Wright in the last is-

sue of *La Revista*).

Facing a packed events room Howse boldly declared himself somewhat put out by St Teresa’s severed arm which Franco kept by his bedside but nevertheless much in love with several churches and statues in Spain. Howse, who also writes columns in the *Spectator* and *The Tablet*, believes that Catholic Spain has so much to offer us all, beyond the immediate pleasures of sun and a convivial lifestyle, and his book was written very much with that underlying conviction. The aula at the Spanish Embassy in London was already full before the event started, but even late comers were all received with warmth. There was plenty of time afterwards for the audience to chat with both journalists accompanied by plenty of wine, chorizo and manchego – real Spanish hospitality!

below:
Jimmy
Burns
andChris-
topher
Howse



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AN AGM LESS ORDINARY

Annual General Meetings are important, but they are not always fun. This year the Society's AGM on October 25th was both important and enjoyable, largely thanks to the innovations brought in by our chairman Dame Denise Holt.

Nothing could better symbolise the Society's strength, grounded in its founding statutes and yet its openness to new ideas, loyal to its long-serving members but also reaching out to new ones, than Dame Denise's decision to deal briskly with the necessary business of AGMs - election of officers, thanks, account of the year's main events etc- and to involve members in the signing ceremony of the Society's new principal supporter Bupa, who operate in Spain as Sanitas. After some generous words of appreciation for the Society from the Spanish Ambassador Carles Casajuana i Palet, members heard from two young graduate students who had benefited from A-S scholarships.

Raquel Pérez Rubio (pictured) gave a particularly moving account of how she had used her sponsorship money in contributing to crucial cancer research both in the UK and Spain. Members then mingled with sponsors and representatives of the A-S's Executive Council, and were provided with the customary copa and a fine array of tapas, courtesy of Javier Fernandez Hidalgo.

Dame Denise highlighted a growing membership, increasing corporate support, a varied and popular programme of activities, and another good year for the Society's scholarship programme. La Revista was also praised for the high editorial standards maintained throughout the year. In other words the A-S was one of the good news stories

of the year! A fuller account of the AGM will be posted on the website.



BUPA- PRINCIPLE SUPPORTER

In a special ceremony to follow our AGM on 25 October, Denise Holt and Yolanda Erburu of Sanitas signed an agreement between the Anglo-Spanish Society and our new Principal Supporter, Bupa, the international health-care group, which operates as Sanitas in Spain.



Yolanda Erburu (Sanitas) and Dame Denise Holt

Bupa's stated purpose is to help people lead longer, healthier, happier lives. It offers personal and company health insurance, runs care homes for older people and hospitals, and provides workplace health services, health assessments and chronic disease management services, including health coaching and home healthcare.

With no shareholders, Bupa invests its profits to provide more and better healthcare. It is committed to making quality, patient-centred, affordable healthcare more accessible in the areas of wellness, chronic disease management and ageing.

Employing nearly 52,000 people, Bupa has operations around the world, including Sanitas, Spain's leading health insurer, serving nearly two million people in over 524 clinics and medical centres across the country.

Sanitas is the official provider of healthcare services to Real Madrid, with 22 doctors and physiotherapists looking after the footballers. It is also the official health provider to the Spanish Paralympic team, offering treatment for sporting injuries and accidents as well as injury prevention programmes.

The Anglo-Spanish Society is proud and grateful to have been chosen as a partner for Bupa. With its support, we will be able to offer another post-graduate scholarship each year for the next three years.

WINE WORLD- Bacchanalia

La Revista interviews Víctor Redondo Sierra, the founder of BACCHANALIA THE WINE SOCIETY, part of the Haciendas World, which takes wine tasting to a new level and has 5* boutique wine resorts and spas in some of Spain's most famous wine regions.

How did you get into wine production and distribution?

Before I got into wine, my background was law and finance. Back in the 90's I was part of COFIR, a listed investment corporation that owned a hotel chain (NH), a luxury real estate (Sotogrande) and a regional winery in Rioja. Following some years of developing a successful buy & build strategy that made the modest Berberana become Arco Wine Investment Group, owner of some world-famous Spanish wineries (Berberana, Marqués de Monistrol, Lagunilla, Marqués de Griñón Rioja, Santiago Rioja, etc...) in 1999 I led an MBO whereby the group became independent. Since then I have developed a personal passion for fine wines, organic foods and luxury hospitality. To a certain extent you could say that Haciendas de España is our dream come true...

Why a wine society and not just a distributor?

Bacchanalia is a meeting point designed to help wine and food lovers who share a common passion to get together. Hence the society concept: this is about socialising, sharing, drinking and eating together. "Gastro-nomic societies" have been common in our country, especially in northern Spain. Friends have a place where they get together every week to cook & drink. Ours is about wine. We want to be more than just another distributor who sells good wines or rents a place for meetings and events.

How can people with a love of Spanish wine get involved?

BACCHANALIA THE WINE SOCIETY is a very active group. Every week we organise wine and food tastings in the heart of the City of London that allow our customers to learn more

about Spain's different regions, grapes and wines. You can attend by calling Dave Green on 020 7429 3271 or email dgreen@bacchanaliatws.co.uk. In addition, visiting our restaurant, River Café by Sergi Arola, on the banks of the River Thames opposite Tate Modern in London will give you the chance to taste some succulent Iberian meats and cured cheeses, all of them produced at our Hacienda Zorita Organic Farm near Salamanca along with a wide selection of fantastic Spanish wines. If you are planning to travel I highly recommend a visit to one of our Haciendas, 5* Wine Hotels located along the Duero Valley in beautiful countryside where you can get away from it all, unwind and immerse yourself in the wine experience.

What is your top tip for a celebratory tittle this festive season?

Vega de la Reina Verdejo is the perfect aperitif for a celebration with friends – a lovely crisp, refreshing white; it is the perfect pick-me-up. On the Christmas table I think a magnum looks great and we have a silky smooth Rioja Reserva from Marqués de la Concordia in magnums, which goes

very well with the festive feast. If you want to relax and enjoy a wine in the evening, our Hacienda Abascal Premium will be perfect – it is a complex red but easy to drink. I can definitely picture myself enjoying a glass while I read or chat with my family.

For the uninitiated wine tourist where would you recommend as the first point of call?

I would recommend Hacienda Zorita, our first 5* wine resort opened in 2004. This former Dominican monastery dates back to the 14th Century and it really is a beautiful place set in the tranquil countryside of the Duero Valley off the beaten track. Christopher Columbus stayed there before setting off to discover the New World. Nowadays guests can relax and enjoy the spa facilities, swimming pools and vineyards, tour the bodega and sample the menu put together by 2* Michelin chef Sergi Arola. Nearby Salamanca is a UNESCO World Heritage site, famed for its ancient university and the splendour of its Renaissance architecture – a most beautiful city and well worth the visit. While you are there, don't forget to sail the Duero

Canyon – this is the longest wine river in the world -, visit the renowned Arribes del Duero Natural Reserve or tour our Hacienda Zorita organic farm, where some of the best ewe's raw milk cheese and ibérico of Spain are produced amongst vast forests of evergreen oaks and natural pasture. If after all that you still have some time left, you may want to try some tapas bars to sample some of the local delicacies.

The future is looking strong for Spanish wine in the UK, are you optimistic about growth in 2012?

We all know there is a deep economic crisis in Europe which seems to get worse by the day. For some this crisis means big trouble. But we're optimistic - we will get through it to become even stronger than before. In fact we do believe this crisis means more of an opportunity than anything else for us. We're working even harder, we believe in what we do and above all we are totally committed to deliver great value for your money. Our core businesses are wine and hospitality... on both counts Spain has a lot to offer and we're in an excellent position to bring it to the market.



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Esta sección de LA REVISTA va dedicada a aquellos que se aburren reuniéndose con la misma gente en los mismos lugares. Nuestro amado Londres está lleno de una amplia gama de tesoros escondidos que vale la pena conocer. Aquí empezamos con algunos...



COMER

BRICKBOX – BRIXTON VILLAGE

Este pequeño comedero tiene un estilo rústico e informal y está siempre hasta la bandera. Será porque tiene un nicho – el restaurante se especializa en crepes y galettes de todo tipo – platos azucarados y salados de todos los rellenos que puedas imaginar. Ves a los cocineros creando estas creaciones ambrosíacas y el ambiente, dentro de la cocina y por fuera, es siempre relajado y jovial. Mi preferencia personal va con el English Breakfast, con encima la salsa picante de casa que flipa. Después de satisfacerte con el plato principal de galette, no vas a poder resistir el gancho de una crepe azucarada por postre. En minutos habrás tragado tres crepes con limón y azúcar sin darte cuenta, como suelo hacer yo.... La población variada de Brixton llena los bancos de día, y también de noche cuando aprovechan del happy hour de mojitos y caiprinhãs entre las 5 y las 8 y el cambio de ritmo cuando el sitio se convierte en galería los jueves, viernes y sábado por la noche. Este es uno de mis sitios preferidos para pasar un domingo resacado y ver los encantos de Brixton pasarme al lado.

BEBER

PRAGUE BAR - SHOREDITCH

Situado en el este de moda, el Prague Bar tiene un ambiente curioso y fantasmal. La lista de bebidas es hogar de unas treinta cócteles tentadores (el mío es un Ruby Raspberry), además de una cantidad de cervezas checas de calidad que no se ven a menudo en otros sitios. También ofrecen unos bocados checos para consumir entre cervezas. Además de servir los cócteles más ricos en esta área, el bar también actúa como galería en exponer el arte de artistas emergentes locales por todo el local. Mientras echas un vistazo al arte, comete unos quesos marinados y salchichas encurtidas para sentir como estuvieras en Checa.

CULTURIZAR

CINÉ LUMIÈRE - SOUTH KENSINGTON



El Ciné Lumière en South Kensington es, sin duda, el hogar del cine independiente más variado de Londres. Parte del Institut Français du Royaume-Uni, la naturaleza del espacio exige que las películas proyectadas sean de las más multiculturales que hay. Este otoño el programa está repleta de donde elegir. Noviembre empieza con los últimos estrenos y sigue con el festival de cine francés, el festival de cine judío, y después aquel iraní. Diciembre continúa con el festival de cine turco y una celebración de la vida cinematográfica del director francés Georges Méliès. Para aquellos jóvenes de espíritu, una serie de pelis sobre la navegación

Lola Oduba



espacial entretendrá. Algunas de las proyecciones preceden a una ronda de preguntas con un protagonista o director (un toque valorado) para seguir con la intriga y completar tu entendimiento de la película. Si no te apetece una peli, asómate a una de las charlas filosóficas, políticas o artísticas o apúntate al grupo de lectura para compartir tus opiniones sobre algunos de los best-sellers más internacionales.

ESCUCHAR

PASSING CLOUDS – DALSTON

Para algo diferente, Passing Clouds es un local donde ponen eventos distintos cada día incluyendo proyecciones de películas y clases de danza. Es un sitio muy relajado sin pretensiones y un poco hippy. Lo que me atrae últimamente es el jam session que ocurre un jueves por medio. Este evento se organiza por el venezolano Williams Cumberbatch y su grupo Tumbaito que empiezan la noche con sus ritmos funky afro-latinos. Me recuerda exactamente a la vibra underground de Sevilla y la fiesta atrae un público internacional y variado. Por más que fluya el ron, incrementa el flujo de gente de toda nacionalidad que se suba al escenario para participar en el compartir de ritmos y good vibes. Incluso yo casi me encontré allí arriba. Si te gusta la espontaneidad esto es para ti. Sin ensayos ni nada, los participantes siempre se sincronizan y crean una melodía que tranquilamente puedes escuchar hasta las horas pequeñas. Aunque siempre se decía, “cuanto más bebes, más se escucha mejor”, incluso sin una cerveza fresca o un ron con cerveza de jengibre casera, esta noche siempre da un inicio alegre y rítmico al fin de semana.



Lola Oduba is Deputy Editor of La Revista and a freelance writer.

Estefanía Ruilope



...es una empresa cuyo fin es ayudar a aquellas personas que disponen de poco tiempo libre y necesitan amueblar y decorar un

piso. Hemos hablado con su creadora Adriana Velilla, una española afincada en Londres, para saber más sobre este original negocio.

Antes de entrar en el tema de tu negocio, ¿cómo apareciste en Londres?

Conseguí unas prácticas en la casa de subastas Sothebys y no dudé en venirme, fue una gran oportunidad que me abrió muchas puertas.

El concepto de FLAT-A-PORTER es genial y práctico, ¿cómo surgió la idea de montar una empresa con estos servicios?

Junto con una amiga, creamos la empresa en el 2009 ya que vimos la necesidad que había. Cuando llegas a una ciudad ajena es muy difícil instalarte y ayuda muchísimo tener a alguien que te solucione la búsqueda de piso y que, además, te lo monte entero (desde muebles hasta sábanas, toallas, electrodomésticos). Ahora yo manejo la empresa sola.

¿En qué consiste el servicio que ofrecéis?

Ha ido evolucionando según las necesidades del mercado. Actualmente ofrecemos tres tipos: 1. PROYECTOS PERSONALIZADOS: Proyectos de

viviendas, proyectos independientes, personal shopper y cualquier otro asesoramiento en diseño de interiores que puedas necesitar.

Por lo visto tenéis servicios para todos los bolsillos...

Claro - esto es uno de los temas más importantes. En los proyectos personalizados nos adaptamos a lo que el cliente quiera gastar, intentando sacar siempre el mayor partido al presupuesto acordado. Los Packs Low Cost salen entre £1840 y £2050. El asesoramiento lo solemos cobrar por hora, dependiendo del servicio requerido.

Es un trabajo entretenido y variado, seguro que nos puedes contar alguna anécdota curiosa...

¡Tenemos muchas! Bueno, dos veces al mes vamos a un mercadillo a las afueras de Londres que es perfecto para encontrar muebles increíbles a precios super buenos. La última vez alquilamos una furgoneta por Internet y cuando nos la trajeron a casa era un camión gigante, un tráiler vamos - ¡nos entró un ataque de risa que no podíamos parar!

Por regla general, ¿cuánto tiempo necesitáis para hacer el proyecto?

Para diseñarlo (planos, selección de mobiliario y presupuesto) tardamos dos o tres días, ya que siempre estamos con varios a la vez. Para ejecutarlo hablamos de una semana, como mínimo.

También ayudáis a la gente a buscar casa, ¿no?

¡Si! Creemos que es un servicio muy útil por lo que te comentaba antes. Cuando aterrizas en una ciudad extranjera no sabes por dónde empezar a buscar. En cambio, nosotras trabajamos con unas cuantas agencias que ya saben lo que nos gusta. Hay que tener en cuenta que en Londres muchos de los pisos

están en condiciones lamentables.

Rápidamente si te pregunto tres técnicas para decorar una casa, ¿qué te viene a la cabeza?

Buscar siempre la calidez a través de buena iluminación, tejidos y armonía.



Ahora toca una pregunta obligada: con los tiempos que corren ¿os ha afectado la crisis?

FLAT-A-PORTER nació en plena crisis y se creó considerando las necesidades que había en ese momento en el mercado. Por un lado, los clientes que acuden ahora seguramente habrían ido antes a un interiorista convencional, y por otro, hemos cubierto nicho de otros que antes no tenían remedio porque un decorador no era asequible para muchos.

¿Qué es lo que más te gusta de esta ciudad?

Londres me chifla por su pluralidad de gentes, porque casi todo vale, porque hay mucho interés por el arte en general - están las mejores casas de subastas del mundo, las galerías más chic, grandes museos con buenísimos comisarios, una gran diversidad de comidas globales, un amplio número de conciertos... En resumen, es una ciudad que siempre nunca duerme y te da la oportunidad de emparte de todo ello si sabes aprovecharlo.

Londres es una de las mejores ciudades para el mundo de decoración, ¿donde hay que ir?

Sin duda alguna, a los mercados vintage de las afueras donde se encuentran piezas únicas a precios buenísimos, aunque luego hay que restaurarlas para darles un aire actual. En mi caso, para inspirarme, nada mejor que pasearme por la quinta planta del almacén Liberty donde venden piezas muy singulares.

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Estefanía Ruilope is a journalist and trends blogger.



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El Garden City Movement y su recepción en España

A diferencia de otros países europeos, España no vivía una intensa industrialización a lo largo del siglo XIX y comienzos del XX. Más bien se trató de un proceso dispar y muy concentrado geográficamente. En 1910, el 61% del total del empleo de sectores industriales estaba concentrado únicamente en el País Vasco y Cataluña. Pero esta realidad no impidió que en el país se experimentase la falta de vivienda, la masificación y la insalubridad de los centros urbanos, al igual que sucedió en las sociedades más industrializadas.

En España el fenómeno del aumento de la población urbana sucedió igual que en el Reino Unido - se explica principalmente por el mayor movimiento de mano de obra rural hacia las ciudades, atraída por la esperanza de encontrar nuevas oportunidades y trabajos mejor remunerados. Este rápido crecimiento demográfico implicó la necesidad de alojamiento, pero la reducida dotación de servicios y la falta de habitaciones económicas conllevaron la degradación de las ciudades. Las principales consecuencias fueron la promiscuidad de sexos y las pésimas condiciones de vida, viviendas y ciudades por la falta de higiene pública y privada. El hacinamiento provocó tasas de mortalidad y morbilidad elevadas que, a su vez, significaban una importante pérdida económica nacional por la incapacidad para el trabajo de la población.

En este contexto surge en España la Comisión de Reformas Sociales en 1883, creada por el liberal Segismundo Moret Real, ministro de la gobernación. La Comisión pre-



María Ángeles Riesco at the scholarship award ceremony, Spanish Embassy, London.

tendió estudiar las condiciones de vida y trabajo de los obreros para determinar qué reformas era necesario llevar a cabo para poner fin a la cuestión social. Aunque no obtuvo los resultados perseguidos, supuso el primer intento de institucionalizar las reformas sociales en España. Su labor fue fundamental para que su sucesor, el Instituto de Reformas Sociales, pudiese sancionar leyes de protección social a partir de 1903. Entre ellas está la primera ley de casas baratas de 1911, de la que este año se conmemoran los cien años.

La construcción de casas baratas se prolongó hasta 1939, en que se aprobó la ley de viviendas protegidas por el régimen de Franco. Entre 1911 y 1939 los proyectos de vivienda social construidos en España fueron variados, pero fueron significativos los que respondieron a la formulación urbanística del británico Ebenezer Howard y su Garden City Movement.

Cuando presenté mi proyecto al Anglo-Spanish Society, estaba viviendo en España. Había terminado mi tesis doctoral en diciembre de 2007 y traba-

María Ángeles Riesco

jaba en una empresa de gestión de recursos culturales. Pero en este trabajo habían quedado abiertas numerosas líneas de investigación que pretendía resolver mediante una investigación posdoctoral.

La propuesta que envié al Anglo-Spanish Society, y por la que me otorgaron la beca en 2009, buscaba analizar cómo se entendió este Garden City Movement en España y cómo se plasmó tanto en la normativa como en los proyectos que se realizaron en todo el país. Desde 2010, desempeño mi labor investigadora en el Cañada Blanch Centre for Contemporary Spanish Studies de la London School of Economics and Political Sciences (LSE)

Formar parte de LSE me ha dado la oportunidad de trabajar con los más prestigiosos hispanistas y expertos de todo el mundo. Semanalmente se organizan seminarios en los que participan especialistas británicos y españoles en diversos campos de la historia contemporánea de España. Junto a ello, atraen a personalidades españolas con un peso relevante en el ámbito social, empresarial o político que imparten conferencias. Además de todas las posibilidades académicas y profesionales que implica formar parte de un centro de reconocido prestigio internacional, la calidad humana y la ayuda de las personas que componen este centro es, para mí, una de las experiencias más gratificantes que he encontrado en Londres.

Desde entonces, he ganado un premio internacional de investigación en 2010 convocado por el Gobierno de Navarra y, este año, se me encomendó la labor de aportar un análisis sobre la historiografía de la vivienda social española entre 1883 y 1939. La beca de la firma legal Gonçalvez-Cuatrecasas, concedida por el Anglo-Spanish Society, supuso para mí el respaldo necesario para mi vida académica en el Reino Unido y este reconocimiento a mi trabajo ha contribuido de forma significativa a mi desarrollo profesional. A ellos y a mi familia, mi más profundo agradecimiento.

THE TASTE OF SPAIN

Photo by Álvaro Cepero Calvo

Lola Oduba

November signalled the start of another month of exciting A-S events and how better to kick off the season than with a wine and cheese tasting evening? The event was hosted at the headquarters of Bacchanalia The Wine Society on the banks of the Thames supplying us with a breathtaking view of London and the millennium bridge by night. Bacchanalia The Wine Society is part of the Haciendas World, a boutique wine company with a number of wine resorts around Spain.

The evening started off with a brief presentation of the cheeses by Javier Fernández Hidalgo and Ignacio López Álvarez from Ñ, then we were treated to an expert wine-tasting tutorial by Mikhail Lumanov, of Bacchanalia. Although attendees were expecting only wine and cheese at this event, members were pleasantly surprised to be given the opportunity to sample some exquisite olive oils presented by 4th generation oil producer, Rafael Saglado of Berberana. Mikhail contin-

ued to host and entertain while we all meandered around the room putting our new tasting skills to the test. A-S members chose from a beautiful selection of four wines paired perfectly and effortlessly with five divine Spanish cheeses. People may have taken their turn around the room just a little slower than anticipated, savouring the ambrosia of the wine, cheese and complimentary chorizo and salchichón (yum) and basking in the warm social glow of the evening.

Jovial chit chat and grazing done, members were given a more challenging task; divided into teams, each group had to attempt to guess the origin, grape, denomination and alcohol percentage of a mystery wine. While some did more 'tasting' of this fifth wine quite merrily, others got down to it and diligently answered the questions, leading to a tense head to head between two teams. After 3 rounds of more specific, taxing questions the match point was finally won

and each lucky member of the winning team went home with a bottle of malagueño red worth £40! Many thanks to our fabulous events team and, of course, Bacchanalia, Ñ and Berberana for making this event possible and oh-so-tasty.

Ñ are soon to open a restaurant in St Paul's.



Blind tasting champions - Jesús Rodríguez Aguilar, Nacita Fra, Pilar Balay and Kaj Christenson

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A Passion for Spain

At a time when there is much heated discussion about the future of bookshops and of books themselves, Books4Spain has recently been launched. It is an online specialist bookshop dedicated to books written in English that use Spain as a backdrop or a topic. Books4Spain has two clear objectives: to enable people to discover Spain and its rich history and culture through books, and to re-create the experience and benefits of a traditional bricks & mortar independent bookshop, but with the added convenience afforded by the Internet as an easier way to discover books about Spain.

The first point is very important as there is a flourishing interest in Spain and Spanish culture throughout the world and Books4Spain aims to support this interest by making books on Spanish culture more readily available. The website holds books that cover a wealth of essential Spanish themes such as Spanish wine, Hernán Cortés, the Alhambra, Flamenco, the Reconquista, Picasso, the Golden Age, Velázquez, the Camino de Santiago – the list goes on and on.

Books about Spanish history and politics in English have always held a significant status, sometimes because the Spanish themselves could not write about it for reasons of censorship or lack of access to information. Authors such as Ernest Hemingway, George Orwell, Hugh Thomas, and more recently Giles Tremlett, have written seminal books describing the social, cultural and political history of Spain. At the same time, Spain has traditionally enjoyed a great reputation as a major destination for travellers and intellectuals since the 18th century. The perceptions and descriptions of writers such as George Borrow, Richard Ford, Laurie Lee and Michael Jacobs have provided us with detailed insights into Spain and its people over centuries while the writing and research performed by writers such as Ian Gibson on Federico García Lorca have made an invaluable contribution to Spanish scholarship and understanding.

Additionally, an increasing number of Spanish writers' works are becoming popular in English translation, such as the novels of Javier Moro – recent winner of the Premio Planeta, Arturo Pérez-Reverte, Manuel Rivas and Javier Cercas, and Books4Spain aims to bring these to the attention of a wider audience.

After publishing his first work of fiction in 2009, Rod Younger became increasingly concerned about the explosive growth in online mass market “soulless” book retailers, and the continuing decline of the traditional independent bookshop housing knowledgeable staff and an interesting collection of books. Having recognised the impact that the Internet and technology were having on the way that people were accessing and reading books, Rod used his knowledge of Spain and previous experience of developing Internet-based businesses, and decided to take up this excellent opportunity to create a specialist website – Books4Spain.

Born in UK of Spanish parents, Rod (Rodrigo Manso de Zuñiga Domenech to give him his Spanish name!) has had a lifelong involvement with Spain, both from a personal and professional perspective, so is very well qualified in his efforts to develop Books4Spain into the leading online bookshop specialising in English language literature about Spain.

Books4Spain is offering Anglo-Spanish Society members a 15% discount on purchases made up to 20 December 2011. All you have to do is select the books you wish to buy from www.books4spain.com and use the promo code ANGLOSPANISH at the checkout. Each user can only use this code once, so be sure to carefully select the books you want to apply it to – this discount can be applied to books which are already discounted but NOT to certain eBooks and Special Offer books.

Photo by Gary Edwards

Rod Younger



Rod Younger (pictured above) is the Managing Director of Books4Spain, online bookshop specialising in English language literature about Spain

Books4Spain
A Passion for Spain

COMPETITION

Books4Spain offers you the chance to win a copy of *Triumph at Midnight of the Century*, the acclaimed biography of Arturo Barea by Michael Eaude.

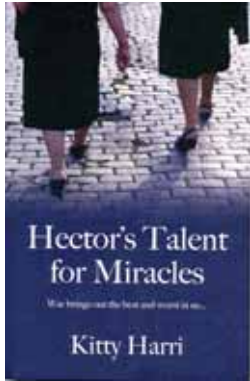
“Arturo Barea’s trilogy, The Forging of a Rebel is the most vivid and personally honest account of life in Spain from the early 20th century to the civil war in 1936. Michael Eaude’s critical biography is the first one and deserves to restore Barea, a forgotten figure, to a much wider readership.” William Chislett, The Times correspondent in Madrid 1975-78 www.williamchislett.com

Just answer the following question:

By what name did Barea become known for his radio broadcasts during the Spanish civil war?

The answer can be found on the Books4Spain website. Please submit your answer to us at competition@books4spain.com with the subject line “Anglo-Spanish Society – Barea” and all correct answers received by 16th January will go into a draw. The winner will be pulled at random by an independent third party.

Hector's Talent for Miracles by Kitty Harri, Honno



There are many novels, by both Spanish and English language authors, which use a crime, a political issue or a romantic tale, or a combination of these, to retrace events

related to the Spanish Civil War in an attempt to demonstrate its impact on people and society. Many writers adopt the technique of using a contemporary person seeking to solve a personal "mystery" or explore a particular event related to the Spanish Civil War to go back in time to "uncover" past actions and events. Hector's Talent for Miracles is a little known gem but a marvellous book that fills this genre.

The story centres on Mair Watkins' search for traces of her grandfather, a volunteer in the Spanish Civil War, in the small Spanish town of Torre de Burros, known to pilgrims worldwide for its miracles. Here she meets Hector Martinez, his mother and his grandmother who live in the shadow of dark secrets. Together, Hector and Mair uncover the devastating truths behind the respectable and pious façade of the town and its inhabitants, suppressed by decades of guilt and silence.

Despite having a slightly slow start, the novel is worthy of perseverance as the development of the main characters and their relationships is extremely strong and very realistic; the vivid descriptions of the emotions and thoughts of the characters are particularly satisfying, given that they are from three different generations. The highly credible plot, which could possibly have been based on a true story, deals sensitively with the horrors of the Spanish Civil War without taking

sides. Despite presenting the details of the actions taken by both Republicans and Nationalists, Hector's Talent for Miracles does not in fact have a political message at all. I suppose that neutrality is the key to its success; it leaves the reader to decide whether to make a political judgement – or not.

Hector's Talent for Miracles is fundamentally a story about people, their relationships and emotions and the impact of their actions on their lives. The imagery is well developed and the descriptions show such depth of experience and understanding of human nature that one can easily visualise both the characters and the locations. As an Anglo-Spaniard living in Spain, I can relate perfectly to the location, culture and issues involved.

It is a joy to read such a well-written story which, while educating the reader, does not attempt to lecture, but just to tell an interesting story in an enjoyable and informative way. I highly recommend it.

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Bilbao Isn't All About the Guggenheim

There used to be a time when epochs were named after cataclysmic events in history: BC and AD, pre-war and post-war, pre-Columbian, etc. However, a recent visit to the Basque city of Bilbao, my first in over twenty years, suggested that cultural markers may now be more significant and appropriate. Now we can look at this great city, once considered grimy and industrial, in terms of pre- and post-Guggenheim.

There is no doubt that this iconic landmark has put Bilbao on the map for millions of people around the world, and that very many of the thousands of tourists who visit Bilbo, as the vizcaínos call it, are attracted by that alone. The Frank Gehry-designed museum of modern art on the bank of the river Nervión is more famous for its construction than for the artefacts inside; seen from certain viewpoints the building represents a ship sailing through the city, symbolic of those who left under the captaincy of Elcano when he departed on the first circumnavigation of the globe.

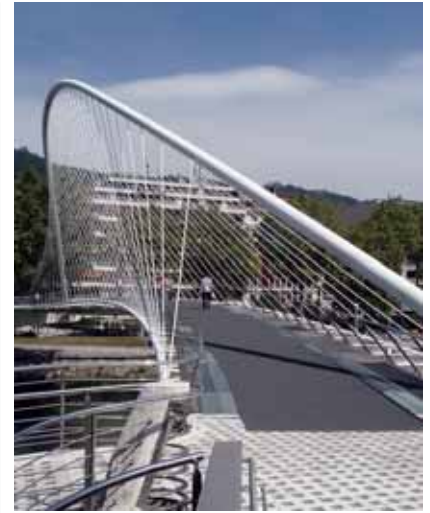
Nonetheless, the visitor soon finds that there is much more to Bilbao than just the Guggenheim. From the moment you step off the plane to approach the terminal building, designed by Santiago Calatrava and resembling an enormous Concord-like bird, you realise that this is an ambitious city which is really going places. Calatrava also designed one of the many bridges cross-

ing the Nervión; the Zubizuri bridge leads to the Atea (Basque for “gateway”) - a five-building residential/commercial complex designed by the Japanese architect Arata Isozaki. Once you arrive in the centre, to take the metro you dive down into the underground through one of the sleek fosteritos, the station entrances designed by British architect Norman Foster. Time-honoured ambitions to bring the best international architects to embellish Bilbao and to enable it to compete with other major cities in Spain are continued by Argentinian César Pelli (designer of the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur), who was engaged to build the Iberdrola Tower, the tallest building in the Basque country at 541 feet. Conversely, as if to prove that a building doesn't have to be soaring in order to be eye-catching, the Basque Health Department is housed in a glass-fronted Hundertwasser-type edifice designed by Juan Coll-Barreu and Daniel Gutiérrez, intended to “catch the moving panorama of the sky”.

For those who prefer their culture a little more traditional, there is plenty of choice in the casco viejo. Even if you visit Bilbao outside Easter, you can appreciate the artistry of the Stations of the Cross in the Museo de Pasos de Semana Santa. At the Alhóndiga, the interior space of an old bodega has been transformed by

Philippe Starck into the Atrium of Cultures, with 43 columns representing different artistic and national styles – a really fun palace. The Museo de Bellas Artes has been similarly transformed to accommodate its growing collection, and whether

Adrian Wright



you prefer the greats of the past – El Greco, Goya, Murillo and Zurbarán – or the contemporary ones – Bacon, Chillida, Tàpies or Barceló – you will find something to suit your taste.

Although I'd like to continue praising the architectural delights of this great city, I cannot finish without mentioning an artistic creation of a different kind: pintxos (pronounced “pinchos”) are the Basque form of tapas, and consist of layers of a variety of tasty tidbits piled high on a slice of baguette, toasted or otherwise. A stroll around the Plaza Nueva quickly reveals bar after bar competing to outdo each other with their surreal pintxo innovations which would be the envy of any Ascot milliner.



Adrian Wright is a former editor the Anglo-Spanish Review, now La Revista. He also provided the photography for this article



Republican Spain & WWII

In January 1939 up to 500,000 Spanish refugees crossed the Pyrenees into France in atrocious weather to escape Franco's forces. Catalonia's Generalitat recently opened the Museu de l'Exili at La Jonquera on the Catalan French border to mark this retirada. Many refugees managed to flee further and today form the Catalan and Spanish Diaspora in Mexico and Argentina. Those who stayed in France faced an uncertain future when the conflict in Spain spread to the rest of Europe and France itself was occupied by Hitler's troops - spearheaded by the Luftwaffe whose pilots had honed their tactics against the Spanish Republican Air Force. The French established a camp for Spanish Republican refugees in Rivesaltes. Once France was fully occupied, 2000 Spanish Jews were taken from there and exterminated in Auschwitz. Other Spaniards were used as forced labour in German factories. An unknown number lie in British soil - they died building the extensive coastal fortifications still seen in the Channel Islands. Thousands more perished in Mauthausen concentration camp.

But not all were subjugated. Remnants of the Spanish Republican Army infiltrated the French Pyrenees where they formed the backbone of the Maquis - referred to by Professor Paul Preston as the "Spanish Republican Army on Tour". Armed by British Special Forces SOE, they operated as far north as the Dordogne. They were not always popular with French civilians. The Maquis would attack German troops as they did at the Col de Rille above St Giron in August 1944, but the Germans took savage reprisals, partially destroying and killing inhabitants of nearby Rimont. The Maquis led by Commander "Robert" went on to capture the strategic Pyrenean town of Foix before handing it over the French Resistance.

Other Spanish Republicans served further afield. Many were recruited into the French Foreign Legion in 1939. On the collapse of France some made it to the UK where they were incorpo-

rated into the Free French Army and went on to serve from Narvik to North Africa. A substantial proportion of the troops and tank crews of General Le Clerk's 2nd Armoured Division which liberated Paris in August 1944 were Spanish Republicans. Their tanks bore the names Ebro, Teruel, Belchite, Madrid and Guadalajara. They went on to take part in the liberation of Strasbourg and the Battle for Germany itself. Few survived.

Many others helped evading Allied Servicemen to cross the Pyrenees from Occupied France to Spain where they made contact with the British Consulates in Bilbao and Barcelona. The Generalitat has marked the end of the symbolic Cami de la Libertat from St Giron in the Ariège across the Pyrenees to Esterrri d'Aneu in Catalunya to commemorate the "Pat O'Leary" escape line. Similar work has been done in the Basque Country to mark the Belgian "Comete" Line which often ended at the Seamen's Mission in San Sebastian and was run by the redoubtable Florentino Goicoechea, decorated by King George VI. The lines were financed by MI9 and coordinated by Donald Darling, operating variously from Madrid, Lisbon and Gibraltar.

Churchill said in his "Finest Hour" speech in Parliament on 18 June 1940: "I do not underrate the ordeal which lies before us, but I believe our countrymen will show themselves capable of standing up to it - like the brave people of Barcelona..." Perhaps surprisingly, Churchill reminded Britain of Franco's 1938 air attacks on Barcelona and not Hitler's more recent destruction of Rotterdam and Warsaw after Great Britain declared war on Germany.

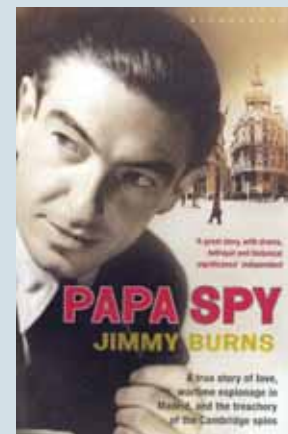
Some point to Churchill's Common's speech of 24 May 1944, thanking Spain for staying out of the war, as acknowledgement of Franco's help to the Allies. Spain's entry into the war on the side of the Axis would certainly have denied the Allies the Mediterranean and threatened supply

lines to Africa, South America, India, Australasia and the Far East. But the speech was made days before D-Day, crucial to the success of the war in Europe when Churchill would have been anxious to ensure all flanks presented no threat.

While Consul General in Barcelona I shall never forget being challenged at a seminar by a student demanding to know "why did the Allies, who professed to rid Europe from fascism, stop their tanks in the Pyrenees and allow Spain to fester under Franco's dictatorship for a further thirty years?" The answer was that Spain was neutral in WWII. But we should never forget that many unknown Spaniards played their individual part to help the Allied effort and paid the ultimate price - for that we should be grateful.

Geoffrey Cowling served as British Consul-General in Barcelona 2002-5.

'The murky world of intelligence, deception, and double agents...a series of real James Bonds,'
Ramond Carr, *Spectator Books of the Year.*



Books4Spain is offering readers of La Revista 25% off Jimmy Burns's latest paperback book - a fascinating account of his father's spying activities in WW2 Spain and Portugal while working for the British embassy in Madrid. To take advantage of this offer go to www.books4spain.com and click on the Offer link in the menu bar. Books on Offer will appear below Our Favourites and scroll to find Papa Spy. Alternatively just type Papa Spy in the Keyword Search and select the book from the results. Happy reading!

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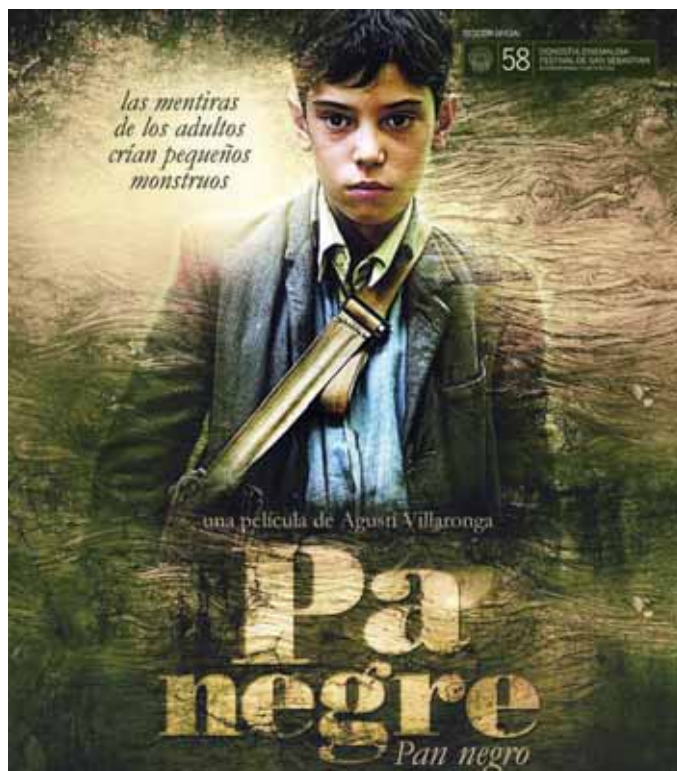
Catalonia Goes to Hollywood



It seems to be a sign of democratic maturity that Spain has selected, for the first time ever, a Catalan language film to represent the country in the category of Best Foreign Language Film for the forthcoming Academy Awards. Since Catalonia's four-century old nationalistic issues are in constant debate and yet to be resolved, it is at least a step forward that the two sides will be walking together along the red carpets of Hollywood. Who would have thought it?

Thousands of lives have been lost since the conflict started in 1716, when Spain's King Philip V decreed that Catalonia's autonomous rights and institutions be erased. The territory that had dominated the Mediterranean during the middle ages, with its own culture and language, sank into decades of cultural darkness and repression, which only worsened during Franco's dictatorship. The general and his supporters saw Catalonia as a threat to their idea of a "national unit," and, soon after gaining power in 1939, he banned the use of the language and folklore. Thousands of Catalans fled to France to avoid arrest and death until democracy was re-established in 1975. Since then, Catalonia has fought to bring back its identity and institutions, but the level of cultural and financial exchange between the mainland and Catalonia still dominates the front pages.

Sadly, this clash has worsened in recent years, mostly due to the increasingly radical positions of both Catalonia's Republican Party and of the Madrid-based PP, Spain's main conservative group. Only a few years ago, some Spaniards stopped buying Cava and other Catalan products;



a boycott that not only exacerbated the polarised positions, but further hampered Spain's growth and development. As such, the fact that the magnificent *Pa negre* is set to represent Spain is a positive step for the peace and stability of the country.

Agustí Villaronga tackles the effects of the Spanish Civil War – a conflict that was the tragic consequence of irreconcilable differences on issues such as class, religion and the unity –or lack thereof– of Spain's regions. In doing so, *Pa negre* documents the rupture of the country between 1936 and 1939, with Catalan nationalism very much at the heart of it.

The film, told from a Catalan point of view, is a human story about winners and losers, humiliation and those who fight to survive and give a better future

to their children. I can't imagine any anti-Catalan Spaniard, as radical as they may be, standing against this beautiful tale of parental love, abuse of power and human instinct. Perhaps that is what has pushed Spaniards to stand together for this movie. Starring Nora Navas and child actor Francesc Colomer, the film already picked up

Spain's National Cinematography Prize after its release in 2010 and also bagged nine awards, including best director and best film, at Spain's main film event – the Goya Awards.

In addition to the superb plot, phenomenal set, wardrobe and period details, the film's end is so powerful and mesmerising that I have not been able to get it out of my head.

It is still far off to see whether *Pa negre* will yield Spain its fifth Oscar, following the path of José Luis Garci's *Begin the Beguine*, Fernando Trueba's *Belle Époque*, Pedro Almodóvar's *All About My Mother* and, more recently, *The Sea Inside*

by Alejandro Amenábar. However, the film has already triumphed where it is most needed - in Spain itself - by showing Spaniards that pluralism should be welcomed as a strengthening force, rather than a destructive one. The sporting world has sent a similar message: after all, it's thanks to a number of strong Barcelona players that Spain has proved victorious in recent football and basketball World Cups.

So, it's good to have Catalonia on board; not only in Hollywood, but in Spain, as well.

Elena Moya (pictured: top left) is the author of *The Olive Groves of Belchite / Los olivos de Belchite*, a fictional novel about today's consequences of the Spanish Civil War.

A Football Fiesta at Wembley



Members of the A-S Society were among thousands of fans who converged on one of the great sporting landmarks to watch England, the inventor nation of football, play current World Cup champions, Spain. This was a celebration of a historic rivalry.

From rock concerts by Coldplay and U2 to sports events involving NFL American football and England's very own FA Cup final, the architecturally inspired new Wembley Stadium of Sir Norman Foster has played host to a range of momentous events since its inauguration in 2007. So the promoters knew what they were doing arranging a match between the national football teams of England and Spain on November 12th.

This was the 23rd football encounter between the two nations and one that carried the weight of history. The first international game between the two countries was in Madrid's Metropolitano stadium in 1929 when Spain beat England 4-3. The victory was celebrated by Spaniards at the time as a turning point in the fortunes of Europe's less developed football nation. For it was the English who brought football to Spain in the late 19th century and

who were looked up to internationally as masters of the sport. It was the first time that England had been defeated outside the home championship it played with Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Spanish euphoria proved short lived because, within the year, the English had sought revenge and obtained it, crushing Spain 7-1 in Highbury stadium, North London. General Franco refused to give up, however, and turned Spain's victory over England in the Bernabéu stadium in 1960 into the equivalent of a victorious armada. From then on the statistics show England staying slightly ahead, although in recent years the balance has tipped in Spain's favour.

The match at Wembley this month had Fabio Capello's somewhat mediocre England squad facing Spain, the current European and World champions, with a reputation of being one of the most brilliant teams in football history. The last time the two countries converged on Wembley was when they played in the European Championship quarter finals in 1996, and Spain lost 4-2 on penalties to a much better England side coached by Terry Venables.

This time there were about three times the number of Spanish supporters cheering their team, clear evidence of how the conquering La Roja, with its style of quick-passing and consistent possession, have stirred imaginations. The presence of the fans, a mixture of visitors from Spain and Spaniards

living in London, ensured that the south end of the stadium was bathed in sea of red and yellow. The lively 'fiesta' atmosphere included many fans – old and young – with their faces painted in the national colours, or wearing a variety of entertaining head gear from red berets to bullfighter's hats. Fans had come



Jimmy Burns

from as far south as Almeria and as far north as Bilbao, a reminder that Spanish coach Vicente Del Bosque has probably achieved what no Spanish politician has managed – to resolve regional differences behind a national enterprise.

With an impressive unbeaten record behind them in competitive matches, the Spaniards took to Wembley as they have done in other previous 'friendly' matches – rather carelessly and unmotivated, and although they dominated much of the match, it was not enough to stop England from snatching a winning goal.

While in football terms the match could have been better, the 87,000-plus sell-out crowd of Spanish and English fans seemed to share a good time, watching an array of (mainly Spanish) stardom from the English Premier League and Spain's La Liga.

The Editor of La Revista would like to thank Fidel López Álvarez, Cultural Attaché at the Spanish Embassy, for helping arrange tickets to this event for members of the A-S Society.

Jimmy Burns is Vice-Chairman of the Anglo-Spanish Society and Editor of La Revista. He is also a journalist and author.

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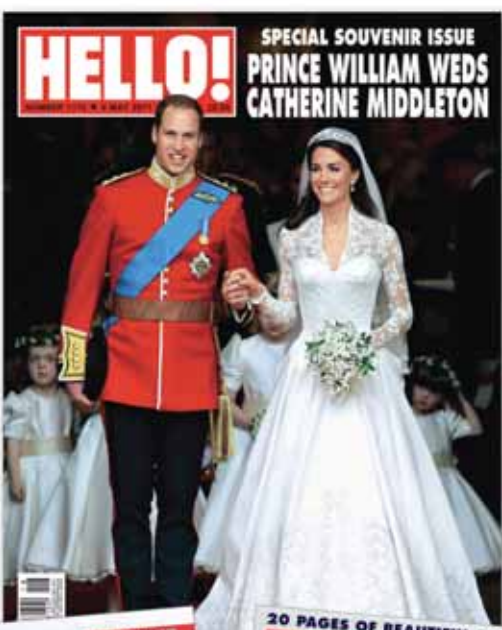
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A Seasonal Encounter with Rick Stein

Photography: Arezoo Farahzad.



One of the many advantages of coming from a bi-cultural Anglo-Spanish family is that in childhood you have doubles of everything – or put slightly differently, you enjoy the same thing in different ways.

Christmas is a perfect example. While on holiday from my London prep school, despite spending most of the season between London and Madrid, I enjoyed a glorious hybrid vacation between the 24th December and the 6th January – a mixture of a very English Christmas and a very Spanish Reyes, as the 6th January's Feast of the Epiphany is more commonly known.

It's hard to beat a succulent turkey with all the trimmings –various stuffings, bread sauce, cranberry sauce and generous helpings of vegetables and crispy roast potatoes– followed by a thick fruity pudding bathed in brandy and brandy butter. But then there was nothing quite like that piece of baked cod that my grandmother's Spanish cook would deliver on Christmas Eve and the tray of turrón and mazapán covering the table for much of the week.

Blame it on a traditional (Spanish) Catholic upbringing, but I always looked forward to the ritual of build-

ing a huge crib, with its imaginative landscapes of snow (cotton wool), sand (saw dust), flowing rivers (silver foil) and the shepherds watching over their sheep in the luscious fields (moss from the garden). Then there was the cut-out crescent moon and big canopy of sticky

stars sheltering the manger with its intimate family scene of Joseph, Mary, and Baby Jesus along with a cow and a donkey.

And how can I forget Los Reyes Magos? I knew holiday time had finally come the day I spent setting up my huge Bethlehem scene on a table in the sitting room, making sure that the three wise men from the East were as far away from the scene as I could put them, but moving them closer to show their progress on each subsequent day. With time, the mythical figures of Gaspar, Melchor, and Baltasar had achieved a certain terrestrial dignity and subsequently, on the eve of the Epiphany itself, the sense of excitement and expectation in my grandparents' flat in Madrid's Paseo de la Castellana, was palpable. Would they punish me with coal for being a naughty boy or would I be gifted with a much-coveted Roman suit of armour for being a saint? I left each of the Kings a glass of sherry and a nibble of turrón before willing myself to sleep with the thought that if my eyes open they would never turn up.

The next day the turrón and sherry had disappeared and my beatitude was confirmed. There was my Roman armour and some sweets to boot (made in Spain, of course, at a time when all Spain exported were oranges, immigrants, toys and Real Madrid). As for the rest of the season, I remember at some point eating a delicious sweet sopa de almendras and looking for my five peseta piece somewhere in the bowels of the Roscón de Reyes, the traditional Epiphany cake, while



Jimmy Burns

drinking a simply glorious cup of hot chocolate. Pure heaven!

I waxed lyrical about these festive memories in a recent encounter with the genial Rick Stein. The celebrity cook had invited me along with a couple of dozen other guests, drawn from the London Spanish expat community and including a couple of Anglo-Spaniards like myself. I found myself competing for the camera's attention with the Spanish ambassador Carles Casajuana i Palet, Spanish celebrity cook José Pizarro, and an eccentric anonymous English expat who, when not in Spain, spent most of his year on a boat between the Orkneys and Mallorca. None of us proved as photogenic as the Penélope Cruz lookalike from some Spanish regional tourist board who floated about us like an apparition.

The event was a pre-recording of a special Rick Stein Christmas show as part his popular BBC TV series. The venue: Sam's Brasserie in Chiswick, a delightful modern eatery with a picture of the bullfighter El Litri conveniently hung on the wall, and friendly staff effortlessly producing a wonderful array of delicious Spanish dishes created by Stein himself following his extensive gastronomical exploration around Spain. The menu included clams with Serrano ham and Oloroso sherry; lamb-stuffed aubergines with Moorish spices and manchego cheese; chicken with saffron and pine nuts; and orange caramel cream, all washed down with some wonderfully chilled cava. It felt like most of Spain was represented. Keep an eye out for the programme on BBC this Christmas. If you miss it, buy Rick's book instead. My expert cook sister María Belén says it's brilliant.

Rick Stein's Spain: 140 New Recipes Inspired by My Journey Off the Beaten Track is available from amazon.co.uk and most good bookshops.



LENTEJAS Lentil Soup

Serves 4

400g pardina or brown lentils
3 tbsp olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
½ green pepper, sliced thinly
1 carrot, finely chopped
1 potato, roughly chopped
2 garlic cloves, unpeeled
2 bay leaves
200g Serrano ham end or pancetta
1 stock cube (optional)
2 chorizo
2 black puddings
salt
1 garlic clove, finely chopped
1 tbsp Spanish sweet paprika

Lentil soup can be made with or without meat. At home we make it without meat, but whenever I get hold of a really nice piece of chorizo I am more than happy to add it to the pot. The lentils do not need to be soaked in water prior to use; actually if you do this they will lose consistency.

Wash the lentils in cold water and rinse them. Heat the oil over a medium heat in a large deep pan. Once the oil is hot add the onion and leave to cook gently, stirring occasionally. Once the onion is semi-soft add the green pepper, carrot, and potato. Cook the vegetables for about 10 minutes until they begin to brown. Add the lentils. Mix well and cover with water. Add the bay leaves and the two unpeeled garlic cloves. Next add either the Serrano ham or one stock cube and the pancetta. Once the lentils have been cooking for about 10 minutes, add the chorizo and black pudding. Add salt to taste. Bring the lentils to the boil and cook for 30 to 40 minutes or until just tender (the time really depends on the type of lentils you use). At the very end, fry

a finely chopped garlic clove, add the paprika, stir and add it to the soup.

We always serve the lentils with white rice on the side. It is absolutely delicious. It's a wonderful winter dish, but I admit it is also part of our summer menu.

ESPUMA DE CHOCOLATE DE DOÑA LOLA

Doña Lola's Chocolate Mousse

Serves 4

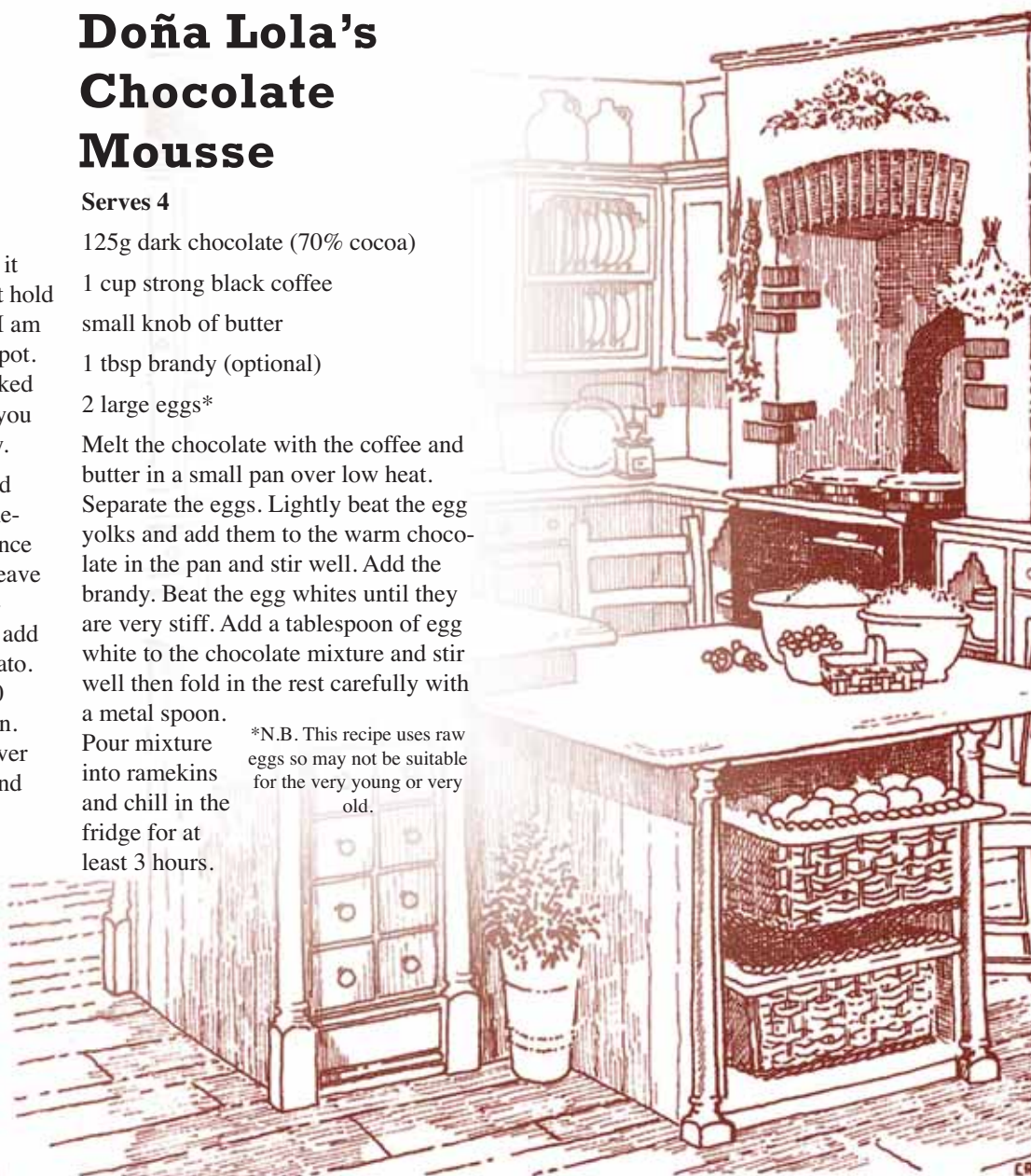
125g dark chocolate (70% cocoa)
1 cup strong black coffee
small knob of butter
1 tbsp brandy (optional)
2 large eggs*

Melt the chocolate with the coffee and butter in a small pan over low heat. Separate the eggs. Lightly beat the egg yolks and add them to the warm chocolate in the pan and stir well. Add the brandy. Beat the egg whites until they are very stiff. Add a tablespoon of egg white to the chocolate mixture and stir well then fold in the rest carefully with a metal spoon.

Pour mixture into ramekins and chill in the fridge for at least 3 hours.

*N.B. This recipe uses raw eggs so may not be suitable for the very young or very old.

Isabel Marañón
& María-Belén Parker



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A practical Spanish lesson