

A Taste of Spain

THE FOOD AND WINE OF SOUTHERN SPAIN

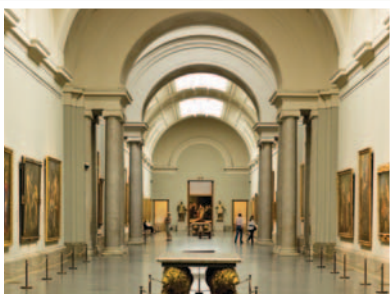
October 8–20, 2013



Join award-winning author and gastronomy expert Gerry Dawes as you sample regional food and wine, and meet with chefs, winemakers, and restaurant owners for a true insider's perspective on the culinary delights of Southern Spain.

- Savor wine and tapas and Spanish delicacies throughout our journey.
- Wander through the Moorish city of Granada and visit the Alhambra.
- Visit the legendary Mezquita in Córdoba and relax in the Plaza Mayor of Chinchón.
- Tour Cadiz's colorful market and explore the Jewish quarter in Seville.
- Visit the gypsy caves of Sacromonte to watch a zambra performance and learn tips from a chef in Granada.
- Sample Andalusian olive oils and tour a sherry bodega.
- Visit Madrid's world-famous Prado Museum.
- Experience Almagro's Golden Age Theater.

"My first introduction to Spanish cuisine was a fabulous two-week trip I took all around Spain with Gerry Dawes in 1990."
– Thomas Keller, chef/owner, The French Laundry, Per Se, Bouchon, Bouchon Bakery



What to Expect

To enjoy this program, travelers must be in overall good health and able to walk reasonable distances often on uneven or cobblestone streets. We move locations and hotels several times in order to experience the charms of several towns. Drive times are 1½–3 hours on average. Dinners in Spain are served late and are lively affairs. Hotels are mostly good 4-star, but not luxury. They are chosen for quality in the range and location, so you have the freedom to explore on your own!

Trip Details

Dates: October 8–20, 2013 (13 days)

Group Size:

Minimum 12, Maximum 24

Cost:

18–24 participants: \$4,995 per person

12–17 participants: \$5,395 per person

Based on double occupancy; \$800 single room supplement

Included: Tour leader and food and wine expert Gerry Dawes; activities as specified; airport transfers on designated group dates and time; transportation throughout; accommodations as specified (or similar); meals (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner, T=tapas meal) per itinerary; wine at lunches and dinners; special guest speakers; local guides; Commonwealth Club rep with 15 or more participants; gratuities to local guides, driver, and for included group activities; pre-departure materials.

Not included: International air to Madrid; meals not specified as included; optional outings and gratuities for those outings; alcoholic beverages beyond wine at lunches and dinner; travel insurance (recommended, information will be sent upon registration); items of a purely personal nature.

Itinerary

Tuesday, October 8

Depart the U.S. for independent flights to Madrid.

Wednesday, October 9

MADRID

Transfer to our hotel. Early this evening take a tour of the world famous Prado Museum with works by Velasquez, Goya, El Greco, as well as the Flemish masters. Continue to an old Madrid taberna for a tour orientation, followed by a walk through the Old Quarter and the Plaza Mayor. Dinner is at a Castilian tavern where we savor local specialties, such as jamón Ibérico de bellota, grilled mushrooms, roast suckling pig, and Spanish wine.

NH Hotel Paseo (D)

Thursday, October 10

MADRID

Marvel at Picasso's immortal *Guernica* at the Reina Sofia museum. Follow in the footsteps of Cervantes and Lope de Vega during a walking tour of Madrid's literary quarter. The afternoon is free for exploring museums, shops, and tabernas on your own. Enjoy a flamenco performance followed by dinner at one of Madrid's great restaurants.

NH Hotel Paseo (B,D)

Friday, October 11

LA MANCHA / CÓRDOBA

Travel to Córdoba, home of a magnificent Roman bridge, the legendary Mezquita (Moorish mosque), and the evocative ancient Jewish and Moorish quarters. En route pass through Don Quixote country, stopping to see the windmills above the saffron-producing town of Consuegra. Enjoy a tapas lunch at one of the greatest tabernas of

southern Spain. Tonight sample Montilla (the sherry-like wine of Córdoba) in an ancient house with a Roman wine cellar, followed by a traditional dinner. *NH Hotel Amistad (B,T,D)*

Saturday, October 12

CÓRDOBA / SEVILLA

Journey to the quintessential Andalusian city of Carmen. Take an expertly guided tour of Sevilla, including the Gothic Cathedral and the Moorish Alcázar fortress, and stroll in this exceptionally charming and evocative city. Enjoy lunch on your own and a free afternoon. Gather tonight for a dinner of Andalusian specialties.

Hotel Inglaterra (B,D)

Sunday, October 13

SEVILLA

Explore Sevilla on a walking tour of the Old Jewish quarter with our leader Gerry Dawes who lived here for nearly four years. After lunch in the old quarter, the rest of the day is free for independent explorations. Take part in the tradition of the *paseo*, or evening stroll.

Hotel Inglaterra (B,L)

Monday, October 14

SANLÚCAR DE BARRAMEDA

Journey to the historic sherry town and fishing port of Sanlúcar de Barrameda. Visit the Plaza de Cabildo and the open-air food market. Meet Javier Hidalgo, the owner of one of the greatest Sherry bodegas, and producer of La Gitana Manzanilla. Javier will show us his winery (founded in 1792) and let us sample his sherries. Enjoy lunch here accompanied by a range of Javier's top-of-the-line wines. Dinner is on your own, offering an opportunity to try one of the many colorful seafood restaurants that line the Guadalquivir River.

Hotel Macia Doñana (B,L)

CST: 2096889-40 Photos: (cover) alreza; Waqas Ahmed; Festival de Almagro; Andrew Griffith; RonjaNilsson; Festival de Almagro / Flickr; (inside) dudek25; villen / stock.xchng; Meisam; Punxsutawneyphil / Flickr; (back) eschu1952 / Flickr

Tuesday, October 15

CÁDIZ/SANLÚCAR DE BARRAMEDA

From El Puerto de Santa María, take a ferry across the bay to Cádiz. Visit the provincial museum, the colorful market, and the cathedral where famous Spanish composer Manuel de Falla is entombed. Enjoy a casual seafood lunch complete with El Puerto's fino sherry and Spanish beer. Return to Sanlúcar and learn some secrets of preparing fish from a well-known chef. Tonight members of a prominent sherry family join us for dinner at one of Spain's greatest traditional restaurants. *Hotel Macia Doñana (B,L,D)*

Wednesday, October 16

LOS PUEBLOS BLANCOS/RONDA

En route to Ronda visit the unique Los Pueblos Blancos (white mountain villages) with stops in Arcos de la Frontera, Zahara e la Sierra, and Grazalema. Arrive in Ronda a former mountain bandit stronghold and Hemingway favorite. It is home to one of the oldest, most beautiful bullrings in Spain. Ronda also sits astride a 300-foot deep gorge and was where Carmen was filmed. After lunch in a colorful restaurant, take a walking tour which includes the bull ring and the Bandoleros Museum.

Hotel Catalonia Reina Victoria (B,L)

Thursday, October 17

RONDA / GRANADA

Travel to Granada for lunch prepared by a local chef trained at Restaurant Daniel in New York. Take an expert-led tour of the Cathedral, the tombs of Isabella and Ferdinand, and the exquisite collection of Flemish miniatures. Stroll through the labyrinthine streets of the Albaicín, the ancient Moorish quar-

ter. Tonight try Granada specialties, including the hams of Trévelez, cured in caves high up in the Sierra Nevada mountains. For those who enjoy a late night, experience the gypsy caves of Sacromonte to watch a zambra performance.

Hotel Alhambra Palace (B,L,T)

Friday, October 18

GRANADA / ALMAGRO

Take a privately guided tour of the magical Moorish fortress, palaces and gardens of the world famous Alhambra. After a tapas lunch, we drive through the spectacular pass of Dispeñaperros with views of olive orchards. Visit an olive oil producer and sample excellent Andalucian oils. In Almagro, tour the 16th century Golden Age Theater. Enjoy Manchego specialties at our dinner, including some dishes mentioned in Don Quixote.

La Casa Del Rector (B,T,D)

Saturday, October 19

LAMANCHA/TOLEDO/CHINCHÓN

Travel to Toledo for lunch prepared by the town's top chef at a site overlooking the town. Continue to the charming 16th century village of Chinchón, one of the most evocative towns in Spain. Enjoy time on your own to sample the town's original pastries with a snifter of their famous anis Chinchón liqueur. Our farewell dinner includes classic Castilian dishes in a restaurant overlooking Chinchón's Plaza.

Hotel Condesa de Chinchón (B,L,D)

Sunday, October 20

CHINCHÓN / MADRID / USA

Transfer to the Madrid airport for flights home, or stay on in Madrid on your own. (B)

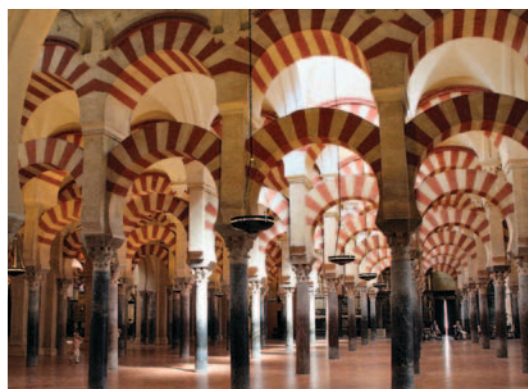
Trip Leader

Gerry Dawes was awarded Spain's prestigious Premio Nacional de Gastronomía (National Gastronomy Award) in 2003. He writes and speaks frequently on Spanish wine and gastronomy. He has spoken at The Smithsonian Institution, The Culinary Institute of America - Napa Valley, The James Beard Foundation, and the Instituto Cervantes (New York), to name a few. Dawes was a finalist for the 2001 James Beard Foundation's Journalism Award for Best Magazine Writing on Wine; won The Cava Institute's First Prize for Journalism for his article on cava in 2004; and received the 2009 Association of Food Journalists Second Prize for Best Food Feature in a Magazine.



Photo by John Sconzo © 2009

"In his nearly thirty years of wandering the back roads of Spain, Gerry Dawes has built up a much stronger bank of experiences than I had to rely on when I started writing Iberia...His adventures far exceeded mine in both width and depth..." - James A. Michener, author of *Iberia: Spanish Travels and Reflections*



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RESERVATION FORM October 8–20, 2013



Phone: (415) 597-6720

Fax: (415) 597-6729

NAME 1 _____

NAME 2 _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SINGLE TRAVELERS ONLY: If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

- I plan to share accommodations with _____
- OR I wish to have single accommodations.
- OR I'd like to know about possible roommates. I am a smoker / nonsmoker.

PAYMENT:

Here is my deposit of \$_____ (\$1,000 per person) for _____ place(s).

Enclosed is my check (make payable to *Commonwealth Club*). OR Charge my deposit to my Visa MasterCard

CARD# _____ EXPIRES _____ SECURITY CODE _____

AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Mail completed form to: Commonwealth Club Travel, 595 Market St., 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105, or fax to (415) 597-6729. For questions or to reserve by phone call (415) 597-6720.

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for this program and agree to them.

SIGNATURE _____

Terms and Conditions:

The Commonwealth Club (CWC) has contracted with Gerry Dawes (GD) to organize this tour.

Reservations: A \$1,000 per person deposit, along with a completed and signed Reservation Form, will reserve a place for participants on this program. The balance of the trip is due 90 days prior to departure and *must be paid by check*.

Cancellation and Refund Policy: Notification of cancellation must be received in writing. At the time we receive your written cancellation, the following penalties will apply:

- 91 days or more prior to departure: \$250 per person
- 90-60 days to departure: \$1,000 deposit
- 59-1 days prior to departure: 100% fare

Tour can also be cancelled due to low enrollment. Neither CWC nor GD accepts liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets purchased in conjunction with the tour.

Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance: We strongly advise that all travelers purchase trip cancellation and interruption insurance as coverage against a covered un-

foreseen emergency that may force you to cancel or leave trip while it is in progress. A brochure describing coverage will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation.

Medical Information: Participation in this program requires that you be in good health. It is essential that persons with any medical problems and related dietary restrictions make them known to us well before departure.

Itinerary Changes & Trip Delay: Itinerary is based on information available at the time of printing and is subject to change. We reserve the right to change a program's dates, staff, itineraries, or accommodations as conditions warrant. If a trip must be delayed, or the itinerary changed, due to bad weather, road conditions, transportation delays, airline schedules, government intervention, sickness or other contingency for which CWC or GD or its agents cannot make provision, the cost of delays or changes is not included.

Limitations of Liability: CWC and GD its Owners, Agents, and Employees act only as the agent for any transportation carrier, hotel, ground operator, or other suppliers of services connected with this program ("other providers"), and the other providers are solely responsible and liable for providing their respective services. CWC and GD shall not be held liable for (A) any damage to, or loss of, property or injury

to, or death of, persons occasioned directly or indirectly by an act or omission of any other provider, including but not limited to any defect in any aircraft, or vehicle operated or provided by such other provider, and (B) any loss or damage due to delay, cancellation, or disruption in any manner caused by the laws, regulations, acts or failures to act, demands, orders, or interpositions of any government or any subdivision or agent thereof, or by acts of God, strikes, fire, flood, war, rebellion, terrorism, insurrection, sickness, quarantine, epidemics, theft, or any other cause(s) beyond their control. The participant waives any claim against CWC/GD for any such loss, damage, injury, or death. By registering for the trip, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants. CWC/GD shall not be liable for any air carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket to or from the departure city. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the traveler. Reasonable changes in the itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well-being of the passengers.