

Chapter 1 : Holidays, Festivals, Celebrations & Traditions in Spain | USA Today

Bolero: One of the oldest and most traditional dances of the history of Spanish dance, the bolero is a quick Spanish dance boasting sudden pauses and sharp turns. Fandango: At one point the most famous dance of Spain, the fandango is a lively, happy Spanish danced in two's.

Spanish cuisine A significant portion of Spanish cuisine derives from the Roman , Jewish , and Andalusian traditions. The Moorish people were a strong influence in Spain for many centuries. However, pork is popular and for centuries eating pork was also a statement of Christian ethnicity or " cleanliness of blood ", because it was not eaten by Jews or Muslims. Several native foods of the Americas were introduced to Europe through Spain, and a modern Spanish cook could not do without potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, and beans. These are some of the primary influences that have differentiated Spanish cuisine from Mediterranean cuisine , of which Spanish cuisine shares many techniques and food items. However, butter or lard are also important, especially in the north. Daily meals eaten by Spaniards in many areas of the country are still very often made traditionally by hand, from fresh ingredients bought daily from the local market. This practice is more common in the rural areas and less common in the large urban areas like Barcelona or Madrid , where supermarkets are beginning to displace the open air markets. One popular custom when going out is to be served tapas with a drink, including sherry , wine and beer. It should be noted that almost every bar serves something edible when a drink is ordered, without charge. However many bars exist primarily to serve a purchased "tapa". Another traditional favorite is the churro with a mug of thick hot chocolate to dip churros in. Often traditional Spanish singers and musicians will entertain the guests. As is true in many countries, the cuisines of Spain differ widely from one region to another, even though they all share certain common characteristics, which include: The use of olive oil as a cooking ingredient in items such as fritters. It is also used raw. The use of sofrito to start the preparation of many dishes. The use of garlic and onions as major ingredients. The custom of drinking wine during meals. Serving bread with the vast majority of meals. Consumption of salad , especially in the summer. The consumption of a piece of fruit or a dairy product as dessert. Desserts such as tarts and cake are typically reserved for special occasions.

Chapter 2 : Spanish Dance and Music: Overview

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Named "Hogueras" bonfires, this tradition originated long before Christmas itself. It is the observance of the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year and the beginning of winter. It is characterized by people jumping over fires as a symbolic protection against illness. This fire-jumping can be seen primarily in Granada and Jaen. The more common traditions include incredibly elaborate "Nacimiento" nativity scenes, Christmas trees, and remarkable Christmas markets scattered among villages and cities with piles of fruits, flowers, marzipan and other sweets, candles, decorations and hand-made Christmas gifts. Often, as the Christmas Eve stars appear in the heavens, tiny oil lamps are lighted, warming village windows. The crowds at the Christmas market thin as shoppers return to prepare for the coming meal. It is a family feast, and often highlighted with "Pavo Trufado de Navidad" Christmas turkey with truffles; truffles are a mushroom-like delicacy found underground. After the meal, family members gather around the Christmas tree and sing Christmas carols and hymns of Christendom. The rejoicing continues through the wee hours of the morning. An old Spanish verse says Christmas Day is spent at church, at feasts and in more merry-making. A custom peculiar to Spain is that of "swinging. The Spanish Christmas continues for a few weeks after Dec. On the Eve of Epiphany, January 5th, children place their shoes on the doorstep, and in the secret of the night, the Three Wise Men pass leaving gifts. January 6th, Epiphany is heralded with parades in various cities where candy and cakes are distributed to throngs of children. The three Wise men are seen everywhere in Spain at Christmas, visiting hospitals, orphanages, etc. The men who dress up in various "Wise men" garments are from all walks of life. The legend tells of the three Wise men traveling through the country on their way to Bethlehem. To properly receive them, the children fill their shoes with straw on Epiphany Eve. For their efforts, they find their shoes filled with presents the following Epiphany morning. Spanish children have a great fondness for the three Wise men, especially Balthazar.

Chapter 3 : An Introduction to the Unique Culture and Traditions of Spain

Bolero. The bolero is a type of dance found in both Cuba and Spain - although both have distinct origins. The Spanish bolero is said to have emerged in Spain in the 18th century as a result of the blending of two existing dances, the Sevillana and the contradanza.

One of its best known cultural traditions is the siesta. Workers and students often go home around lunch time to spend a few hours resting or socialising before returning to their work or studies. Clothing Business dress is stylish, yet conservative. Dress as you would in the rest of Europe. Elegant accessories are important for both men and women. Spanish is generally thought of as one of the easier languages to learn. Spanish and English share much of their vocabulary as both languages have many words derived from Arabic and Latin. Capital letters in Spanish are few and far between. Generally, only people and place names are capitalised, as well as names of companies and government bodies. Names of nationalities or languages are not capitalised, nor are days of the week and months of the year. For lunch, Spanish people will normally not eat before 1. Most shops outside of the major cities will close between 2pm and 5pm in line with the traditional siesta, as mentioned earlier. Spanish office hours can be confusing to the uninitiated. Some offices stay open continuously from 9am to 3pm, with a very short lunch break. Others open in the morning, break up the day with a long lunch break of two to three hours, then reopen at 4pm or 5pm until 7pm or 8pm. Islam is the second largest religion. It is suggested to offer a handshake, and if a kiss is appropriate, the Spanish party will initiate it. The double kiss involves kissing the air whilst touching cheeks. At the first meeting, Spaniards will be very interested in getting to know you before getting down to the business matter in hand. Spaniards like to check that you are honest and reliable; they want to be reassured that they can place their trust in you and your business before embarking upon any kind of business relationship. Business meetings in Spain rarely stick closely to a detailed agenda. Negotiations are quite open and agreements can be flexible, however you may need to persevere in order to ensure that commitments made from their end are met. Mealtimes in Spain are generally considered to be the time to relax and enjoy yourself rather than close business deals, so if you are expecting to discuss business over lunch, you should definitely mention this in advance. Usually a deal would be done at the office and then you would go out to celebrate at a restaurant. Management advice, when managing Spanish employees This section will be particularly helpful if you are relocating to Spain and intend to work. The average full-time working week is just over 40 hours, from 9am and can go on until as late as 8pm, with long lunch breaks between 2pm and 4pm still practised in some companies. However, in larger companies and multinationals, particularly in the larger cities such as Madrid and Barcelona, you will be likely to find the usual working hours of 9am to 5pm and a standard one-hour lunch break. Meetings are routinely held to give instructions to and exchange ideas with subordinates; making decisions or reaching consensus is not the aim of the meeting. Spaniards are very social people. It is not uncommon to discuss matters that are rather personal, even during a first meeting with some, as mentioned previously. Decisions are taken at senior management level, often by the senior executive alone. Likewise, a modest employee is more appreciated than an assertive employee. Be prepared for a slower lifestyle where things take a little longer to get done. This is a simple process providing you follow the guidelines. To do it yourself, go to the National Police station and collect an application form. You need this number to do anything fiscal in Spain such as opening a bank account this can also be done with your passport number. You also need a social security number and the process of getting this is now very easy. Simply go to any social security office, with your original passport and copy of the passport. They issue the number there and then and give you a temporary card. They send on the plastic card at their leisure. It is not necessary to have a job, or even a NIE to get a social security number which you need in order to be able to work in Spain, and have access to medical care amongst other things. How to learn Spanish in Spain The best way to learn the language is to immerse yourself in the culture and surround yourself with the Spanish people. Some local accents, particularly in the south, can be difficult to decipher for beginners, so be mindful of this. Spanish Translation Services Here at Kwintessential we have experienced Spanish translators on hand to help with any of your translation needs. Contact us for more information and

quotes.

Chapter 4 : Top Ten Easter Events In Italy | ITALY Magazine

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The greatest feast of the ancient Roman Empire, "Saturnalia" a winter solstice celebration , just happens to coincide with the Christmas celebrations of the Advent. Consequently, Christmas fairs, merry-making and torch processions, honor not only the birth of Christ, but also the birth of the "Unconquered Sun. They descend from the mountains of the Abruzzo and Latium playing inviting and characteristic tunes on their bagpipes, filling the air with anticipation for the joyous celebration to come. They consist of figurines, in clay or plaster , of the infant Jesus, Mary and Joseph. An ox and ass are nearby because legend has it that they warmed the child with their breath. It is around this basic focal point that individual artisans create their own intricate landscapes. There may be grottoes, small trees, lakes, rivers, the lights of "Bethlehem" in the background, angels hung from wires, and occasionally, even local heroes. The most beautiful Cribs are set up in churches. There is often a contest between churches of the same town for the best Crib. People go from church to church to view and compare the Cribs and displays. This, again, is an example of pagan and Christian blending. The pagan belief explains the purifying and revitalizing power of fire, and that with the burning log, the old year and its evils are destroyed. Christian legend tells how the Virgin Mary enters the homes of the humble at midnight while the people are away at Midnight Mass and warms her newborn child before the blazing log. Amidst the general merrymaking and religious observance of Christmas Eve, Christmas tapers long slender candles are lighted and a Christmas banquet is spread. In some places, Christmas Eve dinner consists largely of fish. There may be as many as 10 t 20 fish dishes prepared. In Rome, the traditional dish of Christmas Eve is "Capitone," a big female eel, roasted, baked or fried. Common throughout Italy are the Christmas sweets: All Christmas sweets, as a rule, contain nuts and almonds. Peasant folklore theorizes that to eat nuts favors the fertility of the earth and aids in the increase of flocks and family. In ancient Rome, honey was offered at this time of year so that the new year might be sweet. On Christmas Eve, Italian children set out their shoes for the female Santa Claus, La Befana, to fill with gifts of all kinds like toys, candies and fruit. If the children were good, their shoes would be filled on Christmas morning. If they were bad, they would find their shoes filled with coal. La Befan is the best-known legend in Italy. Holiday Traditions in Italy.

Chapter 5 : History of Spanish Dance - Spanish Culture

*Dances of Spain and Italy from to [Mabel Dolmetsch] on racedaydvl.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

Articles All countries have peculiar social customs and Italy is no exception. However, Italians are much more formal than most foreigners imagine and newcomers should tread carefully to avoid offending anyone. Women may find that some men kiss their hand, although this is rare nowadays. When saying goodbye, you should shake hands again. Good night buonanotte is used when going to bed or leaving a house in the evening. Titles should generally be used when addressing or writing to people, particularly when the holder is elderly. Professionals should be addressed by their titles such as professor professore , doctor dottore , engineer ingegnere , lawyer avvocato and architect architetto. Kissing in Italy Italian families and friends usually kiss when they meet, irrespective of their sex. If a lady expects you to kiss her, she offers her cheek. There are usually two kisses – first on the right cheek, then on the left. Generally the older or in a business context senior person invites the other to use the familiar tu form of address and first names. The familiar form is used with children, animals and God, but almost never with your elders or work superiors. However, Italians are becoming less formal and younger people often use tu and first names with colleagues. Some people say you must never take wine, although this obviously depends on your hosts and how well you know them. Flowers can be tricky, as some people associate them with certain things e. Dress code in Italy Italians dress well and seem to have an inborn sense of elegance and style. Italians generally dress well and appropriately, tending to be more formal in their attire than most northern Europeans and North Americans. However, although they rarely loaf around in shorts or jogging pants, they also tend not to go to the other extreme of tuxedos and evening gowns. Italians judge people by their dress, the style and quality being as important as the appropriateness for the occasion. Italians consider bathing costumes, skimpy tops and flip-flops or sandals with no socks strictly for the beach or swimming pool, and not the street, restaurants or shops. Italians believe that many foreigners are shameless in the way they dress and act in public and have no self respect. Bella figura refers not only to the way you look, but also to the way you act and what you say. Other Customs You should introduce yourself before asking to speak to someone on the telephone. If you have a business appointment with an Italian, he will expect you to be on time, although he will invariably be five or ten minutes late. Italians usually exchange business cards biglietti de da visita on business and social occasions.

Chapter 6 : Italian Art and Culture

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Both gorgeous countries that I know well enough to be able to write this, being from France and having an Italian family on my father side. So, let start with the most obvious difference of all! The language Both French and Italian are called romantic languages, and both have Latin roots. A friend of mine who is originally from Colombia visited both France and Italy last year, told me that while his Spanish was really helpful to manage in Italy, it was very hard for him in to communicate with people in France. I totally get that. Spanish is the language that would help you the most if you wanted to learn Italian. They are two very different languages. For example, let me give you some very basic words in both language and you tell me if they look alike enough so you could guess them from one language to the other. Now if you look at that list, you have a very good idea about how both languages can be similar and different. Now does a French speaker would have an advantage over an English speaker to learn Italian? Size France is almost twice as big as Italy, but Italy is more crowded. France has 66 million inhabitants with about people per square mile, with a total square mileage of ,, Italy has 61 million inhabitants with about people per square mile, with a total square mileage of , Food Both countries are known to be among the best cuisines of the world. Both cuisines are very rich and tasty, and both Italy and France have different dish traditions depending on regions. While France is the country of the potato, Italy is the country of pasta. The French can cook a potato in a hundred different ways, and Italians can cook pasta in hundred different way too! I personally love both cuisines. I could eat pasta every day. My Italian heritage, I guess. There are the two biggest wine drinkers in Europe, with Italy right behind France. Both countries make some of the best wines in the world. Both Italians and French love wine and drink it on a daily basis. People Personality type Ah, this one is an interesting one! Italians tend to be more exuberant and louder than the French. Italians tend to be more family oriented than the French. Italians tend to be more disorganized and going less by the rules than French are. Italians tend to be more hospitable than French are. Italians tend to be more dishonest than French are. Again, this is my own personal observation of both French and Italian folks that I grew up with and around. And as you know, no generalization is going to apply to every single individual. The average temperature in Central France in summer is 70 degrees while in Central Italy is 80 degrees. Just remember that these are only average summer temperatures of center regions, but of course, northern Italy is warmer than northern France. Both countries have 4 seasons just like the US, and at the same time. History Both countries are pretty much as old as they make them. Both countries still have vestiges from the Greek and Roman Empires still standing. For obvious reasons, Italy having been the Roman Empire center has more of it. Paris, however, is not the city hosting the oldest monuments in the country. Above is my own picture of it. My mother has lived there for a few years after she sold the house I grew up in. I hope you enjoyed those facts about France and Italy, and have a better idea of what to expect if you ever go to visit those two beautiful countries. Please, let your feedback and comments below!

Chapter 7 : List of ethnic, regional, and folk dances by origin - Wikipedia

Dances of Spain and Italy from to by Mabel Dolmetsch starting at \$ Dances of Spain and Italy from to has 1 available editions to buy at.

Check new design of our homepage! An Introduction to the Unique Culture and Traditions of Spain Spain is known to have a combination of historic beauty and modern thinking. The culture and tradition of this beautiful country is rich, colorful, and unique. The lifestyle of the people and the natural beauty attracts many tourists. Approximately 50 million people visit Spain each year, making it one of the top 5 tourist destinations in the world. Historyplex Staff Last Updated: Feb 23, Did You Know? Spain is among the few countries that has a long history of invasions and invaders. This, summed up with the geographic location, have together resulted in the formation of a very unique, yet rich and diverse culture. Artifacts of these settlements are found in the Altamira cave, in the form of paintings. The Carthaginians later invaded these settlements and started trading colonies. Christianity was introduced in Spain during this era. Agricultural production was started under the Roman rule, markets were introduced and export of goods was initiated. Later, the Roman Empire was overthrown by the Gothic tribes. Muslim Rule Spain faced Muslim domination after the Muslims defeated the Gothic tribes and took over their establishments. The Muslim period lasted for more than years. The couple then united the whole country under one crown. The same year Christopher Columbus discovered America. The Golden Age This Era was called the Golden age mainly due to the gold and silver brought in from the newly discovered continents. However, this splendid period of the Spanish history lasted only for 50 years; with wars and internal conflicts undermining the Spanish influence. After Spain regained its empire, internal conflicts and economic recession led to the loss of many Spanish colonies in America. Civil War The increasing conflicts between the Republican Government and the Nationalist opposition led to the Spanish Civil War, which lasted from to The Nationalists, led by General Franco, succeeded against the Republicans. Post Franco and Present Spain was under the Franco dictatorship till After his death, Juan Carlos de Borbon was proclaimed king. The Spanish Constitution of was approved and democracy was restored. Today, Spain is a constitutional monarchy. The People of Spain Spain has an estimated population of 46., Immigrants from other European countries like Romania, Morocco, Germany, and Britain are large in number. Other immigrants that form a considerable population are Chinese, Indian, and those from several sub-Saharan African countries. Celebrations and Festivals Fiestas and festivals are a very important part of Spanish culture and they greatly influence the social life of the locals. The Spaniards are fun-loving people and are accustomed to these fests. Almost every town and village has its own annual fair that lasts anywhere from a few days to a few weeks. Village festivals involve the locals going on a pilgrimage to a certain shrine either in horse-drawn wagons or on horseback. Foreigners are always welcomed to join in the fun and laughter. Holy Week is another famous festival and attracts tourists from all over the world. There are many local fiestas for safe return of fishermen from the sea, deliverance from the Moors, and the harvests. Corrida de Toros This is probably the most popular of all Spanish traditions, reflecting the great influence that other cultures and races had on this beautiful country. Brought into the Iberian Peninsula by the Greeks and Phoenicians, bullfighting is a sport that evolved over the centuries and has been adopted into the Spanish culture. Originally, the sport involved men riding horses and fighting raging bulls, but it eventually changed to men or matadors, fighting bulls without the aid of horses. Today, bullfighting is seen more as a ritualistic event, than a sport. Larger festivals include flamenco, bullfights, circuses, fun-fairs, fireworks, concerts, music competitions, and recitals. Dancing the Flamenco Way Spanish culture is also closely linked to the famous Flamenco genre in Spanish songs, music, and dance. This passionate dance, along with the music, first originated in Andalusia south Spain and was primitively considered to be a gypsy dance. It is a flamboyant dance that is accompanied with the soulful tunes of the guitar and a cante flamenco song , which is the soul of this dance. In its authentic form, it is one of the best classical cultural contributions that Spain has to offer. Its songs of lament, bitter romance, and oppressions have a chilling effect on most people. Real and true Flamenco is said to evoke the qualities of the demon or spirits that possess the performers, containing a sort of ecstatic yet primitive allure that

welcomes all listeners. The best chance of experiencing the real, authentic thing is probably at one of the summer festivals that are held yearly in Granada, Cadiz, Malaga, Jerez and Seville, or even during the fiestas and festivals in the small villages that are off the tourist maps. Then and Now Just like everything else, the rich cultural history of Spain has influenced its clothing as well. While traditional Spanish clothing always involved embroidery, the Moors were responsible for introducing jewelry. Traditional attire for men includes a wide-brimmed hat, black trousers tightly worn and short jackets, while the ladies wear an exquisite frilly flamenco dress. Though most of this clothing is now absent from the culture, its presence is felt during the festivals. The Gilet happens to have evolved from its 19th century waistcoat-like look, to a more contemporary coat or jacket. The Mantilla basically a scarf, is still worn by many brides, and held by what we call a peineta. Even today, it is said that not all Spaniards follow the contemporary trends and prefer their old clothing to the new. However, in metropolitan areas, designer brands are held in high regard and women are comfortable with global fashion, highly opting for clothing such as trousers and skirts. The Language of Spain On emerging as a global empire, Spain played an important role in popularizing Spanish all around the world the empire included territories and colonies in Europe, Africa, the Americas, and Asia. However, the constitution of Spain recognizes Spanish as Castilian castellano. It is the official language of the country, and it is the right and duty of every Spaniard to know it. Art in Spain The paintings and sculptures in Spain are famous all over the world. Some Spanish artists and sculptors like Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali have left their mark in the field of art. They are among the most innovative artists in the world. Over the years, there has been a tremendous explosion in the number of art galleries in the country, especially those related to contemporary art. Architecture Influenced by the World As a result of invasions and geographical diversity, the architecture of Spain has had a great influence from other cultures. The Romans have left some of the most outstanding architecture in Spain. The Muslim dynasty and the Christian kingdoms have resulted in the diversity of style of architecture in southern Spain. An example of this is Cordova, a city in Andalusia, southern Spain. Spain also saw the growth of Renaissance architecture. This cuisine is relatively non-spicy. Spanish food offers some of the most mouth-watering and delicious dishes ever to be set on a dinner table. Some of the more popular Spanish dishes include Paella, which is a rice dish that features a variety of ingredients. Also famous, are the mariscos or shellfish, and the potajes and pimientos rellenos. Hot chocolate and churros is a very popular dessert throughout the country. Spain is also famous for its aromatic wines; the drinking age in the country is Other alcoholic beverages are Sangria, Cava, and authentic Spanish beer. Spanish Sports Soccer or football is the national sport of the country and is easily one of the most important events when it comes to popularity, as well as participation. The football fans are among the most fervent and dedicated in all Europe and can only be matched in their fanaticism by probably the Italians. They won the World Cup and the Euro The Spanish league, La Liga is one of the most-viewed football league tournament in the world. Rafael Nadal, former World No. The long yet leisurely walks on green terraces, the energy of bullfighting, the hypnotic beauty of the flamenco are just a few of the cultural experiences you can enjoy when visiting Spain. With its spectacularly diverse culture and traditions, magnificent beauty of the surroundings and people, Spain is a quaint mix between the old-world charm and the new-world flamboyance.

Chapter 8 : Music of Spain - Wikipedia

Traditional Dance. Traditional Italian dances are hard to find in Italy in general. The top three are the tarantella from Puglia, the Sardinian ballu tundu (round dance) and the Neapolitan Saltarello.

In the two centuries before the Christian era, Roman rule brought with it the music and ideas of Ancient Greece ; early Christians, who had their own differing versions of church music arrived during the height of the Roman Empire; the Visigoths , a Romanized Germanic people , who took control of the peninsula following the fall of the Roman Empire; the Moors and Jews in the Middle Ages. Hence, there have been more than two thousand years of internal and external influences and developments that have produced a large number of unique musical traditions. Early history[edit] Isidore of Seville wrote about the local music in the 6th century. His influences were predominantly Greek , and yet he was an original thinker, and recorded some of the first details about the early music of the Christian church. He perhaps is most famous in musical history for declaring that it was not possible to notate sounds, an assertion which revealed his ignorance of the notational system of ancient Greece, suggesting that this knowledge had been lost with the fall of the Roman Empire in the west. The Moors of Al-Andalus were usually relatively tolerant of Christianity and Judaism, especially during the first three centuries of their long presence in the Iberian peninsula, during which Christian and Jewish music continued to flourish. Music notation was developed in Spain as early as the 8th century the so-called Visigothic neumes to notate the chant and other sacred music of the Christian church , but this obscure notation has not yet been deciphered by scholars, and exists only in small fragments. As the Christian reconquista progressed, these chants were almost entirely replaced by the Gregorian standard, once Rome had regained control of the Iberian churches. The style of Spanish popular songs of the time is presumed to have been heavily influenced by the music of the Moors, especially in the south, but as much of the country still spoke various Latin dialects while under Moorish rule known today as the Mozarabic earlier musical folk styles from the pre-Islamic period continued in the countryside where most of the population lived, in the same way as the Mozarabic Chant continued to flourish in the churches. In the royal Christian courts of the reconquistors, music like the Cantigas de Santa Maria , also reflected Moorish influences. The so-called Llibre Vermell de Montserrat red book is an important devotional collection from the 14th century. Renaissance song books included the Cancionero de Palacio , the Cancionero de Medinaceli , the Cancionero de Upsala kept in Carolina Rediviva library , the Cancionero de la Colombina , and the later Cancionero de la Sablonara. An early 16th-century polyphonic vocal style developed in Spain was closely related to that of the Franco-Flemish composers. Merging of these styles occurred during the period when the Holy Roman Empire and the Burgundy were part of the dominions under Charles I king of Spain from to , since composers from the North of Europe visited Spain, and native Spaniards traveled within the empire, which extended to the Netherlands , Germany and Italy. The Aragonese Gaspar Sanz authored the first learning method for guitar. The latter was said to have reached a level of polyphonic perfection and expressive intensity equal or even superior to Palestrina and Lassus [citation needed]. Most Spanish composers returned home from travels abroad late in their careers to spread their musical knowledge in their native land, or in the late 16th century to serve at the Court of Philip II. Front cover of book: Classicism in Spain, when it arrived, was inspired by Italian models, as in the works of Antonio Soler. Some outstanding Italian composers such as Domenico Scarlatti and Luigi Boccherini were appointed to the Madrid royal court. Zarzuela , a native form of opera that includes spoken dialogue, is a secular musical genre which developed in the mid century, flourishing most importantly in the century after Musical creativity mainly moved into areas of popular music until the nationalist revival of the late Romantic era. Music by region[edit] The regions of Spain have distinctive musical traditions. There is also a movement of singer-songwriters with politically-active lyrics, paralleling similar developments in Latin America and Portugal. The singer and composer Eliseo Parra b has recorded traditional folk music from the Basque country and Castile as well as his own compositions inspired from the musical styles of Spain and abroad.

Chapter 9 : Spain Tours, Vacation Packages & Luxury Travel | Zicasso

Festivals and holidays in Italy Major festivals in Italy and public holidays (so you'll know when things will be closed) Maybe it's a solemn procession in honor of the the town's patron saint, or a reenactment of a historical event.

Overview One of the most iconic images of Spain is that of a Flamenco dancer in her traditional, frilly dress. Although Flamenco is without doubt the most famous of Spanish dance styles, it is most certainly not the only one. Many of these dances originated as folk dances and were later choreographed, in order to standardise and preserve them. Spanish Dance Spanish dance has always been famous over the centuries as Spain is an example of a country where the art of dance has been developed extensively. So much so, that dance could be said to be the national art of Spain. Spanish dance is also a resilient art form as it is intangible. This means it was protected from destruction by many forces such as the Visigoths, who destroyed buildings and books during their stay in the Spanish peninsular. During these turbulent centuries, dance was used to commemorate battles and wars as well as more personal subjects such as love and loss. The Moors, unsurprisingly after their seven hundred year long stay in Spain, also helped to strengthen and enrich Spanish dances. In the 15th Century, many Spanish regions began to form their own styles of dance which led to a huge collection of distinct forms of dance. Together with hybrid dances, where two distinct styles had mixed together, there were over two hundred separate dance styles in the region of Catalonia alone during the 15th Century. With the expansion of the Spanish empire, many of the Spanish colonies began developing their own styles of dance based on those performed by the Spanish men and women. The Philippines is an excellent example of this as they still dance some of the old Spanish folk dances, albeit with a little bit of a twist. For example, while the Spanish Fandango would often be danced with castanets, the philippino version of the dance is danced with candles carried in small glasses. The 18th Century, or the period of Enlightenment under the Bourbon Kings, was a time where Spain made substantial progress. It was also the century where Spanish dance was at its peak and where the Spanish dances that we can recognise today grew in popularity. Later in Spanish history, the gitano gypsy influence became the strongest factor in the creation and evolution of dance in Spain. The gypsies arrived in Spain during the Baroque period and it is thanks to them that we now have Flamenco. However as Flamenco became more and more popular on the international and national stage, regional dances from the early centuries suffered. No more so than under the dictatorship of General Francisco Franco , who banned anything that could be consider regional or threatening to his idea of a traditional Castilian Spain. Yet, Spanish dance still thrives today, in all of its forms, and is still continuing to evolve. Many people also learn some of the less widespread dances as an introduction to the complex steps used in Flamenco. The Sevillanas for example are much simpler and so are great for beginners. Furthermore, practising these Spanish dances is a great way to meet new friends and learn the Spanish language.