

A Madrid Treasure Reopens

After extensive renovations, the Lázaro Galdiano Museum has reopened. As you can see from Frommer's review below it is worth a visit. Here we reprinted the guidebook's online review of the museum.

Imagine 37 rooms in a well-preserved 19th-century mansion bulging with artworks -- including many by the most famous old masters of Europe. Visitors usually take the elevator to the top floor and work down, lingering over such artifacts as 15th-century hand-woven vestments, swords and daggers, royal seals, 16th-century crystal from Limoges, Byzantine jewelry, Italian bronzes from ancient times to the Renaissance, and medieval armor.

One painting by Bosch evokes his own peculiar brand of horror, the canvas peopled with creepy fiends devouring human flesh. The Spanish masters are the best represented -- among them El Greco,

Velázquez, Zurbarán, Ribera, Murillo, and Valdés-Leal.

One section is devoted to works by the English portrait and landscape artists Reynolds, Gainsborough, and Constable. Italian artists exhibited include Tiepolo and Guardi. Salon 30 -- for many, the most interesting -- is devoted to Goya and includes paintings from his "black period."

This off-the-beaten track museum, closed for a year and reopened after tasteful renovations in 2003, is a gem and usually enjoyably underpopulated, a nice contrast to the overcrowded Prado, Thyssen, and Reina Sofia museums.

Hours Tues-Sun 10am-2pm

Address Serrano 122

Metro: Rubén Darío or Núñez de Balboa.

Phone 91-561-60-84

Prices Admission 3€ (\$3.45)

Website:

<http://www.flg.es/museo/museo.htm>



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Known as the "museum of the Romanesque," ZAMORA is famous for its Romanesque churches and Holy Week processions. Dating back to pre-Roman times, it was often the site of battles, as Urraca and her brother, Sancho, struggled over it and it figures prominently in the Cantar del Mio Cid. Nearby TORO, smaller in size and situated in the fertile land above the Duero River, was probably a Roman settlement captured by Hannibal in 221 BC. Its collegiate church, Sta Maria la Mayor, boasts lovely portals. The city's fortifications are also worth a visit and offer lovely views. Already famous for its wines, Toro is becoming more and more known in foreign lands for its excellent quality.

Sign up by 1 october at awc, or call 630-720-753.

Coming in October

In the October issue of *Nuevas Amigas*, which will be mailed to all members, look for the return of one of our favorite columns, Kara's Corner, where Kara Martin gives her humorous and affectionate take on fielding the curve balls that life in Spain can throw at its foreign residents.

We will continue with our INC Recipe Exchange, featuring the prize-winning recipes from our Welcome Lunch.

Have you visited the INC website, incmadrid.com? If not, we will talk about this valuable tool for members and anyone, anywhere who is considering a move to Madrid and looking for a friendly place to land.

We encourage members to share their news, questions about life in Spain, or their great finds--a new restaurant, shop or service that you think other members would appreciate hearing about--in our regular column, Member to Member.

Nuevas Amigas is your newsletter. Write an article, share a photo, promote your business by advertising with us--we want to hear from all of you.

