# **DRINKING**

# top picks

- Chocolatería San Ginés (p186)
   Chocolate con churros became an institution here.
- The Penthouse (p190)
  Rooftop terrace that's the height of refinement.
- Taberna Tempranillo (p188)
   Busy bar that showcases all that's good about La Latina.
- Taberna Alhambra (p190)
   One of the most agreeable bars in central Madrid.
- Taberna de Dolores (p189)
   Great wines and a who's who of Madrid society.
- Café Comercial (p193)
   One of Madrid's oldest and most famous literary cafés.
- One of Madrid's oldest and most famous literary c

   Café Belén (p194)
- Fine *mojitos* and a chilled vibe.

   Museo Chicote (p195)
- Museo Chicote (p195)
   Legendary cocktail bar that draws the celebrities.
- Ojalá Awareness Club (p195)
  Fun and funky Malasaña watering hole.

What's your recommendation? www.lonelyplanet.com/madrid

Madrid has more bars than any city in the world, six, in fact, for every 100 inhabitants – wherever you are in town, there'll be a bar close by. That's because your average Spanish bar is not just a place to drink. Instead they form the centre of community life, usually filled with a cast of old-time regulars alongside people of all ages. Madrileños drink often and seem up for a drink almost any time of the day or night, but they rarely do so to excess; drinking is almost never an end in itself, but rather an accompaniment to good conversation, food or music. Perhaps they've learned that pacing themselves is the key to lasting until dawn – it's a key strategy to learn if you want to make the most of your Madrid night.

In addition to local corner bars, Madrid is replete with late-night temples to good taste that have something special about them – these are the places we've concentrated on here. Places to drink listed throughout this chapter are divided into cafés and bars, although the dividing line between the two is often blurred – just as you can order a coffee in many bars, they won't look strangely at you if you order something stronger in a café.

# **BEER**

If madrileños mostly drink wine with their meals, they drink lager-style beer for much of the rest of the time. In the majority of bars you won't have much choice, but thankfully Madrid's flagship beer, Mahou, goes down well. Mahou was first produced in Madrid by a French entrepreneur in 1890 and comes as both draught and bottled. Cruzcampo is a lighter beer. Otherwise, two Catalan companies, Damm and San Miguel, each produce about 15% of all Spain's beer. Foreign beers are becoming more widely available, but you'll have to ask for them and don't expect too much choice other than in Irish bars. The Mexican Coronita is also widely on sale.

# WINE

Although beer drinking now outstrips wine, Spaniards love their wine, not least because they produce some of the best wines in Europe. They even have a saying to convince the sceptics: *comer sin vino*, *comer mosquino* (a meal without wine is a stingy one).

Unlike France and many other wineproducing countries, Spanish wine is labelled primarily according to region and quality, rather than the type of grape. Most of the best Spanish wine, whether blanco (white), tinto (red) or rosado (rosé), is produced in northern Spain. The most famous wine region is La Rioja, whose wines (mostly reds) are generally of the highest order. Not far behind are the regions of Ribera del Duero (along the Duero River in Castilla v León) and Navarra, while Valdepeñas in Castilla-La Mancha has less variety but is generally well priced. For white wines the Ribeiro wines of Galicia are well regarded, and have traditionally been popular, while the Penedès area in Catalonia produces whites and sparkling wine, such as cava, the champagne-like toasting drink of choice for Spaniards at Christmas. Jeréz sherry is the most famous alcoholic drink to emerge from Andalucía. All are widely available in Madrid.

## THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF BEER

To slake your thirst at the bar you could just ask for a *cerveza* (beer), but why not give the bartender an idea of exactly what you're after?

The most common order is a *caña*, a small glass of *cerveza de barril* (draught beer). In the heat of the summer, this is the best way to make sure they keep coming cold. A larger beer (about 300ml), more common in the hipper bars and clubs, usually comes in a *tubo* (a long, straight glass). The equivalent of a pint is a *pinta*, while a *jarra* refers to a jug of beer. A *clara* is a shandy, a beer cut with *gaseosa* (lemonade or soda water) or *limón* (lemon).

A small bottle of beer is called a botellin or quinto because it contains a fifth of a litre. A larger one (330ml) is often referred to as a tercio (ie a third of a litre).

Some bars also provide extremely large plastic beakers of beer (usually for the younger crowd); with no little irony, these huge containers are called *minis*. The beer's not always great (and often watered down).

### **MADRID WINES**

The Comunidad de Madrid is not renowned for the quality of its wines and locals are more likely to order a bottle from La Rioja or Ribera del Duero than one from their own backyard. That said, *vinos de Madrid* have *Denominación de Origen* (DO) standing and their reputation is growing among wine experts. When Madrid first received DO status two decades ago, wine production was restricted to just five *bodegas* (wineries). Now there are 39 wineries with 80 sq km of grapegrowing areas (mostly around Aranjuez, Navalcarnero and San Martín de Valdeiglesias) producing four million bottles a year. Grapes range from the indigenous malvar to grenache, syrah and cabernet sauvignon. Perhaps the most important mark of the region's growing wine success is that Madrid waiters will no longer look down their noses at you if you order a *vino de Madrid*, especially one under the labels of Divo, Tapón de Oro, Montazo and Qubél.

For information on wines from Madrid, see the boxed text, above.

Spanish wine is subject to a complicated system of wine classification, ranging from the straightforward vino de mesa (table wine) to vino de la tierra, which is a wine from an officially recognised wine-making area. If they meet certain strict standards for a given period, they receive Denominación de Origen (DO) status. An outstanding wine region gets the Denominación de Origen Calificada (DOC) while reserva and gran reserva are other indications of quality. The only DOC wines come from the Rioja region in northern Spain, which was demarcated in 1926, and the small Priorat area in Catalonia.

# Wine Appreciation Courses & Tours

A number of wine shops and other organisations run wine tours and courses in wine appreciation if you'd like to understand more about Spanish wines.

**Lavinia** (p140) Wine courses (in Spanish) and tours to nearby *bodegas* (wineries).

Planeta Vino ( 91 310 28 55; www.planetavino.net) Tastings in an English-language wine school from €25.

Poncelet (see the boxed text, p159) Monthly primers on cheese and wine appreciation for around €50.

The Wellington Society ( © 609 143 203; www.wellsoc .org; tours €85) Quirky and informative tours of the wines of La Rioja and Ribera del Duero in Madrid wine bars.

# **OTHER DRINKS**

Sangria is a red wine–and-fruit punch (usually with lemon, orange and cinnamon), sometimes laced with brandy or whisky. It's refreshing going down but too many on a summer's afternoon will soon catch up with you. A variation on the theme is *tinto de ve*-

rano, a mix of wine and Casera, a brand of gaseosa (lemonade or soda water).

Although it's becoming less common, you will on occasion be asked if you'd like a *chupito* to round off a meal (usually it's on the house). This is a little shot of liqueur or liquor and the idea is to help digestion. Popular and refreshing Spanish ones are *licor de manzana verde* (green apple liqueur), *licor de melocotón* (peach) or *pacharán* (made from the sloe berry).

Once the pleasurable business of eating is over, Spaniards invariably turn to copas (literally 'cups', but used to describe spirits), with whisky, ron (rum) and gin-tonic (gin and tonic) the most popular orders. You'll be expected to watch while the bartender pours your whisky...and sometimes continues pouring until you tell them to stop. You pay no extra regardless of the amount! Foreign whiskies are widely available, but Dyc (known locally as El Segoviano) is cheaper and fine if you're mixing it with coke. Rum with coke is known as a cubata, while for G&T lovers, Larios is a common brand of gin ,although it gets mixed reviews from resident Brits. There's also no shortage of imported and Spanish-produced top-shelf stuff – coñac (brandy) is popular.

Other popular drinks include *sidra* (cider, usually poured from the barrel), an Asturian staple that has caught on elsewhere, vodka mixed with just about anything or a Brazilian *caipirinha* (made with *cacheca*, a spirit similar to rum). But madrileños have, above all, fallen in love with the *mojito* (rum with sugar and lashings of mint). Our pick of Madrid's *mojitos* are found in the boxed text on p196.

Further drinks produced locally include *licor de madroño* (strawberry-tree liqueur), a light-brown, high-octane drop extracted from the fruit of Madrid's symbolic strawberry tree, and *anisado de Chinchón*, a very popular *anis* (aniseed-based drink) produced in the town of the same name south of Madrid

**DRINKING LOS AUSTRIAS, SOL & CENTRO** 

# **HOT DRINKS – A PRIMER**

Café con leche About half coffee and half hot or templada (tepid) milk. Ask for grande or doble if you want a large cup, en vaso if you want a smaller shot in a glass, or a sombra if you want lots of milk.

Café solo (un solo) A short black.

Café cortado A short black with a little milk (macchiato in Italy).

Café con hielo A glass of ice and a hot cup of black coffee, to be poured over the ice; it's as close as Spaniards come to iced coffee.

Té and infusions Teas and herbal teas. Locals tend to drink tea black, so if you want milk (leche), ask for it to come separately (a parte).

Chocolate caliente Hot chocolate — it's dark and sweet and so thick you could stand your spoon up in it. If you want something less thick, ask for a *colacao* or *nesquik*.

# **PRACTICALITIES**

As Spanish bars double as breakfast and, later, tapas bars, they tend to open all day, sometimes from around 8am until 1am, until 3am or later on weekends; this is especially true of cafés. Newer bars that don't serve breakfast or food usually open late afternoon or early evening.

Although prices can be much higher, expect to pay around €2.50 and up for a *caña* (small glass of beer), *copas* (spirits) hover around €5, while cocktails start from around €6.50. Wine is incredibly cheap in supermarkets; in restaurants, apart from *vino de la casa* (house wine), which you usually order by the glass, prices start from around €15 for a reasonable bottle and considerably more for something classy. Spaniards don't usually tip in bars.

# LOS AUSTRIAS, SOL & CENTRO

Downtown Madrid has a number of splendid cafés that span a range of tastes, but we're none too excited about the bars in the city centre (apart from the two listed). Tapas bars where you can also enjoy a drink include Casa Revuelta (p161) and Casa Labra (p161). Otherwise you've far more choice in neighbouring La Latina (opposite) or Huertas (p189).

## CAFÉ DE ORIENTE Map pp64–5

ⓐ 91 541 39 74; Plaza de Oriente 2; ♀ 9ammidnight Sun-Thu, 9am-2am Fri & Sat; ⋒ Ópera On a pretty square in what was once part of a long-gone, 17th-century convent, this place feels like a set out of Mitteleuropa. It's the perfect spot for a coffee (surprisingly, only €2.50), especially on the *terraza* (openair bar) when the weather's fine. There's also a pricy restaurant attached.

### CAFÉ DEL REAL Map pp64–5

© 91 547 21 24; Plaza de Isabel II 2; ❤ 9am-1am Sun-Thu, 10am-2am Fri & Sat; M Ópera One of the nicest cafés in central Madrid, this place serves a rich variety of creative coffees and a few cocktails to the sound-track of chill-out music. The best seats are upstairs, where the low ceilings, wooden beams and leather chairs are a great place to pass an afternoon with friends.

### EL CAFÉ DE LA ÓPERA Map pp64–5 Café

ⓐ 91 542 63 82; www.elcafedelaopera.com; Calle de Arrieta 6; № 8am-midnight; M Ópera
Opposite the Teatro Real, this classic beforeperformance café has one unusual requirement for would-be waiters – they have to
be able to sing opera. If you pass by here at
most hours, it's a quite, classic café and your
attention will be caught by the décor (floral
wallpaper and stainless-steel tables) as it's
rare that the waiters break into song until
dinner time – then you'll pay around €55 for
a meal, which is not bad value if you don't
have tickets for the show across the road.

### **CHOCOLATERÍA SAN GINÉS**

Map pp64-5

Chocolate Con Churros Café

© 91 365 65 46; Pasadizo de San Ginés 5; ♀ 9am-7am Wed-Sun, 6pm-7am Mon & Tue; M Sol Perhaps the best known of Madrid's chocolate con churros (Spanish donuts with chocolate) vendors, this Madrid institution is at its most popular from 3am to 6am as clubbers make a last stop for sustenance on their way home. Only in Madrid.

## **GAIA COCKTAIL LOUNGE**

Map pp64-5

Cocktail Bai

### ONE FOR THE ROAD

Spaniards can be a superstitious lot, so there's one drinking etiquette rule to be mindful of: never suggest having just one last drink. Madrileños almost always order the *penúltima* (next but last), even if it's really the last of the evening. To mention the *última* (last) is bad luck; it sounds like one's last drink on earth. Of course, the problem with ordering a *penúltima* is that it frequently leads to ordering another.

Heartbreakingly sleek and oh-so-cool, Gaia is one of the best bars in the city centre, serving up delicious cocktails to a DJ-soundtrack of jazz, funk, lounge and occasional house music. It's not like you'd stumble onto Gaia on your way elsewhere, so the crowd tends to be a pretty discerning, sophisticated lot.

### LA VIUDA NEGRA Map pp64–5 Cocktail Bar

The 'Black Widow' is an all-dressed-inorange, lounge-like cocktail bar that's minimalist enough for Manhattan and genuinely cool enough to satisfy the sophisticated new-Madrid crowd. If you're the sort that likes to settle in for the night, you can eat first at the sister restaurant La Viuda Blanca (The White Widow; p160) next door, then ease over to the bar for funky house music until late. Sunday afternoons are iazzy and very mellow.

# **LA LATINA & LAVAPIÉS**

Two different barrios, two very different vibes.

Most nights (and Sunday afternoons), crowds of happy madrileños hop from bar to bar across La Latina. This is a barrio beloved by a discerning crowd of 20- and 30something urban sophisticates who ensure there's little room to move in the good places and the bad ones don't survive long; the scene is a little more diverse on Sundays as crowds fan out from El Rastro. Most of the action takes place along Calle de la Cava Baja, the western end of Calle del Almendro and Plaza de la Paja. La Latina is not really a late-night barrio (by Madrid's standards), so if you're keen to keep going after 3am, you'll probably need to move elsewhere. And drinking in La Latina is usually combined with the tapas for

which the barrio is famed – many great tapas bars listed on p162 are also terrific places in which to drink.

Lavapiés is a completely different kettle of fish altogether – working class and multicultural, with an alternative, often bohemian crowd and quirky bars brimful of personality. Not everyone loves Lavapiés, but we do.

### CAFÉ DEL NUNCIO Map pp76–7

Café del Nuncio straggles down a stairway passage to Calle de Segovia. You can drink on one of several cosy levels inside or, better still in summer, enjoy the outdoor seating. On summer weekends this place hums with the sort of clamour that newcomers to Madrid find irresistible.

### **EL MENTIDERO** Map pp76-7

☐ 91 354 64 92; Calle del Almendro 22; ❤️ 7pm-2am Mon-Fri, 1pm-2.30am Sat & Sun; M La Latina Get the night started at this fun flamenco bar that's also popular for its wines. Downstairs is somewhat more low-key, a place where groups of friends huddle around tall barrels that serve as tables.

### **EL VIAJERO** Map pp76–7

© 91 366 90 64; Plaza de la Cebada 11; № 2pm-2am Tue-Thu & Sun, 2pm-3am Fri & Sat; M La Latina This landmark of La Latina nights may have lost a little of its glamour, but it's none-theless essential for a drink in the barrio. Its undoubted highlight is the open-air, rooftop terraza, which boasts fine views down onto the thronging streets, although when the weather's warm, it's nigh-on impossible to get a table. Our secret? It often closes the terraza around 8pm to spruce it up a little and you should be ready to pounce when it reopens and thereafter guard your table with your life.

### LA INQUILINA Map pp76-7

© 627 511 804; Calle del Ave María 39; № 7pm-2am Tue-Thu, 1-4pm & 8pm-3am Fri-Sun; M Lavapiés This could just be our favourite bar in Lavapiés. It's partly about the cool-and-casual vibe, partly because it's a bar run by women and partly because of its community spirit with deep roots in the Lavapiés soil. Contemporary artworks by budding local artists adorn the walls and you can

**DRINKING LA LATINA & LAVAPIÉS** 

### LA TABERNA CHICA Map pp76–7

 a 91 364 53 48; Costanilla de San Pedro 7;

 b 8pm-1.30am Mon-Thu, 1.30pm-2am Fri-Sun;

 M La Latina

Most of those who come to this narrow little bar are after one thing, the famous Santa Teresa rum that comes served in an extra-large mug. The music is chill-out with a nod to lounge, which makes it an ideal pit-stop if you're hoping for conversation.

### LA VENTURA Map pp76–7

© 91 521 48 54; Calle del Olmo 21; № 10.30pm-2.30am Wed-Sat, 8pm-2am Sun; M Antón Martín One of many Lavapiés secrets hidden behind nondescript doors, La Ventura is a smoky, underground, alternative-cool bar with a cut-off-from-the-outside-world feel. It's always filled with locals and don't believe everything you read – we've been there long after closing time, but we didn't tell you that.

### GAUDEAMUS CAFÉ Map pp76–7 Café

© 91 528 25 94; www.gaudeamuscafe.com, in Spanish; 4th fl, Calle de Tribulete 14; № 3.30pm-midnight Mon-Fri, 8pm-midnight Sat; M Lavapiés What a place! Decoration that's light and airy with pop-art posters of Audrey Hepburn and James Bond. A large terrace with views over the Lavapiés rooftops. A stunning backdrop of a ruined church atop which the café sits. With so much else going for it, it almost seems incidental that it also serves great teas, coffees and snacks. The only criticism we can think of is that it doesn't stay open later. It's definitely a candidate for Madrid's best-kept secret.

# top picks

ROOFTOP TERRAZAS (OPEN-AIR BARS)

- The Penthouse (p190)
- Gaudeamus Café (above)
- Bonanno (right)
- Hotel de las Letras (p229)

### NUEVO CAFÉ DE BARBIERI Map pp76-7 Café

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This barrio classic is Lavapiés' grandest old café, the sort of place for quiet conversation amid the columns and marble-topped tables right on the Plaza de Lavapiés. It does everything from coffees to cocktails and it's always been an intellectual hub of barrio life. If it all sounds a bit staid, it gets busy with a young crowd on weekend nights.

### **EL EUCALIPTO** Map pp76–7 Cocktail Bar

Calle de Argumosa 4; № 5pm-2am Mon-Sat, 4pm-1am Sun; M Lavapiés

You'd be mad not to at least pass by this fine little bar with its love of all things Cuban: from the music to the clientele and the Caribbean cocktails (including non-alcoholic), it's a sexy, laid-back place. Not surprisingly, the *mojitos* are a cut above the average.

### **DELIC** Map pp76–7

Mojito Bar-Café

 a 91 364 54 50; Costanilla de San Andrés 14;

 h 11am-2am Tue-Sun, 8pm-2am Mon;

 M La Latina

We could go on for hours about this longstanding café-bar, but we'll reduce it to its most basic elements: nursing an exceptionally good *mojito* or three on a warm summer's evening at Delic's outdoor tables on one of Madrid's prettiest plazas is one of life's great pleasures. Bliss.

### **TABERNA TEMPRANILLO**

Map pp76-7

Wine Ba

☐ 91 364 15 32; Calle de la Cava Baja 38; ☑ 1-4pm & 8pm-midnight; M La Latina You could come here for the tapas, but we recommend Taberna Tempranillo primarily for its wines, of which it has a selection that puts most Spanish bars to shame. It's not a late-night place, but it's always packed with an early evening crowd and on Sundays after El Rastro.

### **BONANNO** Map pp76–7 Wine & Cocktail Bar

### **LA HORA DEL VERMUT**

Sunday. One o'clock in the afternoon. A dark bar off Calle de la Cava Baja. In any civilised city the bar would be shut tight, but in Madrid the place is packed because it's *la hora del vermut* (vermouth hour), when friends and families head out for a quick apéritif before Sunday lunch. Sometimes referred to as *ir de Rastro* (going to the Rastro) because so many of the traditional vermouth bars are in and around El Rastro market, this Sunday tradition is deeply engrained in madrileño culture. Some of the best bars for vermouth are along Calle de la Cava Baja (Map pp76–7), while Casa Alberto (p191) is another legendary part of this fine tradition.

it's usually full with young professional madrileños from early evening onwards. In fact, it's still so full on Sunday lunchtime that we wonder why it bothers closing at all. Be prepared to snuggle up close to those around you if you want a spot at the bar.

# **HUERTAS & ATOCHA**

Huertas comes into its own after dark and stays that way until close to sunrise. Bars are everywhere, from Sol down to the Paseo del Prado hinterland, but it's in Plaza de Santa Ana and along Calle de las Huertas that most of the action is concentrated. Huertas draws a mixed local and international crowd and your standard Huertas bar has touts outside offering a cheap first drink; we haven't bothered to list these as they'll find you before you find them. But Huertas is big enough for everyone and, for the most part, we've concentrated instead on places with what Spaniards call encanto (charm) that will appeal to the more discerning among you. Down the hill, Atocha is not really known for its interesting bars, although like many Madrid barrios, you'll find standard Spanish bars on most streets.

### TABERNA DE DOLORES Map pp84–5 Ba

☐ 91 429 22 43; Plaza de Jesús 4; № 11am-1am Sun-Thu, 11am-2am Fri & Sat; M Antón Martín Old bottles and beer mugs line the shelves behind the bar at this Madrid institution, known for its blue-and-white tiled exterior and for a 30-something crowd that often includes the odd famoso (celebrity) or two. It claims to be 'the most famous bar in Madrid' – that's pushing it but it's

invariably full most nights of the week, so who are we to argue? You get good house wine, great anchovies and some of Madrid's best beer for prices that haven't been seen elsewhere in Madrid since the euro sent prices soaring.

### VIVA MADRID Map pp84–5

Bar

### CAFÉ DEL CÍRCULO DE BELLAS ARTES Map pp84–5

Caf

② 91 521 69 42; Calle de Alcalá 42; ♀ 9am-1am Sun-Thu, 9am-3am Fri & Sat; M Sevilla This wonderful Belle Époque café was designed by Antonio Palacios in 1919 and boasts chandeliers and the charm of a bygone era. You have to buy a token temporary club membership (€1) to drink here, but it's worth every cent, even if the waiters are not averse to looking aggrieved if you put them out.

### **EL OASIS** Map pp84–5

Cat

189

© 91 429 93 56; www.el-oasis-madrid.es, in Spanish; Calle de Moratín 36; № 4pm-2am Sun & Tue-Thu, 4pm-2.30am Fri & Sat; M Antón Martín When Spain does teahouses, they're often awash in faux-mudéjar interiors, but this lovely little café down the Huertas hill breaks the mould with clean-lined modern décor. Exotic teas and coffees and free wi-fi make this a fine spot to kick back in the late afternoon, while cocktails and copas mean that you could move on to the harder stuff without leaving your chair.

### **EL IMPERFECTO** Map pp84–5 Café-Bar

Plaza de Matute 2; ♀ 3pm-2am Sun-Thu, 3pm-3am Fri & Sat; M Antón Martín

Its name notwithstanding, the 'Imperfect One' is our ideal Huertas bar, with live jazz on Tuesdays (and sometimes other nights) and a drinks menu as long as a saxophone, ranging from cocktails (€6.50) and spirits to milkshakes, teas and creative coffees

**DRINKING HUERTAS & ATOCHA** 

☎ 91 523 16 06; www.cafedelsoul.es, in Spanish; Calle de Espoz y Mina 14; Y 4pm-2am Mon-Thu, 4pm-3am Fri, 2pm-3am Sat, 2pm-2am Sun; M Sol Cocktails (with or without alcohol) for €6.50 are a big selling point these days in Madrid. If you add chill-out music (that turns to chill-house later in the night) and curious décor that incorporates Moroccan lamps, Café del Soul is more mellow than many.

#### MELOUNGE Map pp84–5 Chill-Out Bar

☎ 91 369 26 41; www.espaciomelounge.com; Calle de San Pedro 22: P 7pm-3am Thu-Sat: M Antón Martín

On a guiet backstreet just in from the Paseo del Prado, Melounge is a colourful, but cosy split-level little bar with an artsy vibe and where *mojitos*, daiquiris and piña coladas cost an eminently reasonable €5.50. From time to time it has small shows or exhibitions and it's always worth stopping by to see what's happening.

#### **DOS GARDENIAS** Map pp84–5 Cocktail Bar

☎ 91 429 29 69; Calle de Santa María 13; 6pm-2am Mon-Thu, 6pm-3am Fri & Sat, 5pm-1am Sun; M Antón Martín When Huertas starts to overwhelm, this soothing little bar is the perfect antidote. The flamenco and chill-out music ensure a relaxed vibe, while sofas, softly lit colours and some of the best mojitos (and exotic teas) in the barrio make this place perfect to ease yourself into or out of the night.

#### THE PENTHOUSE Map pp84–5 Cocktail Bar

☎ 91 701 60 20: Plaza de Santa Ana 14: 9pm-4am Wed-Sat, 5pm-midnight Sun: M Antón Martín or Sol

High above the clamour of Huertas, this exclusive cocktail bar has a delightful terrace overlooking Plaza de Santa Ana and the rooftops of downtown Madrid from the 7th floor, It's a place for sophisticates with chill-out areas strewn with cushions, funky DJs and a dress policy designed to sort out the classy from the wannabes. If you suffer from vertigo, consider the equally sybaritic Midnight Rose on the ground floor.

### EL CALLEJÓN Map pp84–5

🖻 91 429 83 97; Calle de Manuel Fernández v González 5: 7.30pm-2.30am Sun-Thu, 7.30pm-3.30am Fri & Sat; M Sevilla or Antón Martín

Tiny El Callejón lives and breathes flamenco from the music coming from the sound system to the stars of cante jondo (deep flamenco song) who adorn the walls. The clientele includes flamenco stars who recognise authentic flamenco when they hear it.

### TABERNA ALHAMBRA Map pp84-5Flamenco Bar

☎ 91 521 07 08: Calle de la Victoria 9: 10am-2am: M Sol

There can be a certain sameness about the bars between Sol and Huertas, which is why this fine old taberna (tavern) stands out. The striking facade and exquisite tilework of the interior are quite beautiful: however, this place is anything but stuffy and the vibe is cool, casual and busy. Later at night there are some fine flamenco tunes.

### CASA PUEBLO Map pp84-5

Jazz Bar

☎ 91 420 20 38; Calle de León 3; 🕅 8.30pm-2.30am Tue-Sun; M Antón Martín Jazz may be all the rage in Madrid, but Casa Pueblo was onto it long before the fad started and will remain so long after it passes. As such, it has a whiff of authenticity about it. Tango is also a staple of the bar and there are occasional live acts and great drinks to be had.

### JAZZ BAR Map pp84–5

lazz Bar

Sherry Bar

Calle de Moratín 35; 3pm-2.30am Sun-Thu, 3pm-3.30am Fri & Sat: M Antón Martín Jazz aficionados will love this place for its endless jazz soundtrack and private booths (at last, a bar that has gone for privacy instead of trying to cram too many people in) and there's plenty of greenery to keep vou cheerful. If you want live jazz, head elsewhere (p206), but this place is unbeatable for its cruisy jazz vibe.

### LA VENENCIA Map pp84-5

**a** 91 429 73 13; Calle de Echegaray 7; 1-3.30pm & 7.30pm-1.30am Sun-Thu, 1-3.30pm & 7.30pm-2.30am Fri & Sat; M Sol

This is how sherry bars should be - oldworld, drinks poured straight from the dusty wooden barrels and none of the frenetic activity for which Huertas is famous. La Venencia is a barrio classic, with fine sherry from Sanlúcar and manzanilla from

Jeréz. There's no music, no flashy decorations; it's all about you, your *fino* (sherry) and your friends.

### MALASPINA Map pp84–5

Tapas Bar

☐ 91 523 40 24; Calle de Cádiz 9; 
☐ 11am-2am Sun-Thu, 11am-2.30am Fri & Sat; M Sol Although it serves inviting tapas, we like this cosy place with its wooden tables and semirustic décor as a mellow place for a quiet drink before you head home for an early night. Many of the bars in this area lack character or have sold their soul to the god of tourism. This place is different.

#### CASA ALBERTO Map pp84–5 Tapas Tavern

a 91 429 93 56; www.casaalberto.es, in Spanish: Calle de las Huertas 18: Noon-1.30am Tue-Sat.

noon-4pm Sun: M Antón Martín Since 1827 madrileños have been getting their vermouth from this elegant bar, where the hard stuff is served on tap. It's also famous as a restaurant (p166), but come here on Sunday at 1pm and you're halfway towards being considered an honorary madrileño. Cervantes lived in this building before it became a bar.

### **CERVECERÍA ALEMANA**

Map pp84-5

Tanas Tavern

☎ 91 429 70 33: Plaza de Santa Ana 6: 10.30am-12.30am Sun-Thu, 10.30am-2am Fri & Sat, closed August: M Antón Martín or Sol If you've only got time to stop at one bar on Plaza Santa Ana, let it be this classic cervecería (beer bar), renowned for its cold, frothy beers. It's fine inside, but snaffle a table outside in the plaza on a summer's evening and you won't be giving it up without a fight. This was one of Hemingway's haunts, and neither the wood-lined bar nor the bow-tied waiters have changed much since his day.

### **ØLSEN** Map pp84–5

Vodka Bar

☎ 91 429 36 59; www.olsenmadrid.com; Calle del Prado 15: 1-4pm & 8pm-2am Tue-Sun: M Antón Martín

This classy and clean-lined bar is a temple to Nordic minimalism and comes into its own after the Scandinavian restaurant out the back closes. We think the more than 80 varieties of vodka are enough to satisfy most tastes. You'll hate vodka the next day, but Madrid is all about living for the niaht.

# SALAMANCA

Salamanca is the land of the beautiful people and it's all about gloss and glamour: heels for her and hair gel for him. As you glide through the pijos (beautiful people or yuppies), keep your eyes peeled for Real Madrid players, celebrities and designer clothes. If nothing else, you'll see how the other half lives.

### THE GEOGRAPHIC CLUB Map pp102-3 Bar

☎ 91 578 08 62; Calle de Alcalá 141; 🏵 1pm-1.30am Sun-Thu, 1pm-3.30am Fri & Sat; M Goya With its elaborate stained-glass windows, ethno-chic from all over the world and laid-back atmosphere, the Geographic Club is an excellent choice in Salamanca for an early evening drink. We like the table built around an old hot-air balloon basket almost as much as the cavernlike pub downstairs.

### BALMORAL Map pp102-3

Cocktail Bar

🖻 91 431 41 33; Calle de Hermosilla 10; № 12.30-3pm & 7pm-2am Mon-Sat; M Serrano Very Salamanca. This cocktail bar is something of a barrio antique, open since 1955 and with a dignified, moneyed British atmosphere. The cocktails are exceptional and original - we couldn't quite bring ourselves to try the 'bull shot', which consists of vodka and beef consommé...

### **CENTRO CUBANO DE ESPAÑA** Map pp102-3

a 91 575 82 79; www.elcentrocubano.com; 1st fl. Calle de Claudio Coello 41; 🕑 2pm-2am Sun-Wed, 2pm-2.30am Thu-Sat: M Serrano

# top picks

**MADRID TERRAZAS** (OPEN-AIR BARS)

- Plaza de Santa Ana (Map pp84–5)
- Paseo de la Castellana and Paseo de los Recoletos (Map pp102-3)
- Plaza de Olavide (Map pp116−17)
- Plaza de Oriente (Map pp64–5)
- Plaza de Chueca (Map pp110−11)
- Plaza de la Paja (Map pp76–7)
- Plaza Mayor (Map pp64–5)

**DRINKING MALASAÑA & CHUECA** 

lonelyplanet.com

Always dreamed of Havana, Cuba? Come here and you'll be a whole lot closer. This is where Cubans from all over Madrid come to be reminded of their homeland via the flavours (in the restaurant) and fine rumbased drinks such as mojitos (in the bar).

### **EL LATERAL** Map pp102-3

☎ 91 435 06 04; Calle de Velázquez 57; 🥎 1pm-1am; M Velázquez or Núñez de Balboa It doesn't get much more pijo than this chic wine bar, where hair gel seems to be required for entry. Don't bother coming here after work unless you're in an Armani suit; at other times, the excellent wines and other drinks loosen up the crowd (if not the ties) more than you'd think.

# **MALASAÑA & CHUECA**

Drinking in Malasaña and Chueca is like a journey through Madrid's multifaceted past. Around the Glorieta de Bilbao and along the Paseo de los Recoletos you encounter the stately old literary cafés that revel in their grandeur and late-19th-century ambience. Throughout Malasaña, rockeros nostalgic for the hedonistic Madrid of the 1970s and 1980s will find ample bars in which to indulge their memories. At the same time all across the barrios, especially in gay Chueca and away to the west in Conde Duque, modern Madrid is very much on show with chill-out spaces and swanky, sophisticated bars. And Madrid's best cocktail bars are to be found in Chueca between Calle de la Reina and Gran Vía. Going out to drink in Malasaña and Chueca is the stuff of Madrid legend, whatever your era, whatever your drink, whatever your sexual preference, whatever your look.

### BAR EL 2D Map pp110-11

☐ 91 445 88 39; Calle de Velarde 24; 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 3 1 2 Sun-Wed, 1pm-3am Thu-Sat; M Tribunal One of the enduring symbols of la movida, El 2D's fluted columns, 1970s-brown walls and 1980s music (with a nod to America's Deep South) suggest that it hasn't quite arrived in the 21st century yet. No-one seems to care, mind you. It also serves its spirits in big glasses, movida-style, which may explain it.

### **EL CLANDESTINO** Map pp110-11

🖻 91 521 55 63; Calle de Barquillo 34; 🥎 8pm-

We've been wandering around the barrios of Madrid for years and this is one bar we always find full. What it's doing right is a low-key atmosphere, excellent (and occasionally live indie rock) music and good mojitos.

### LA BARDEMCILLA Map pp110-11

☎ 91 521 42 56; Calle de Augusto Figueroa 47; noon-2am Mon-Fri, 6pm-2am Sat; M Chueca Run by the family of film heart-throb Javier Bardem, this bar has an agreeable buzz most nights of the week. A comfortable space to relax, a slightly bohemian air and a loyal following add up to a great package.

### LA PALMERA Map pp110-11

Calle de la Palma 67: 97.30pm-1am Mon-Thu. 7.30pm-2.30am Fri & Sat; M Noviciado Tucked away in the quiet-by-day laneways of Conde Duque, this tiny place is a gem. Covered in blue and vellow tiles and with an antique bar that looks like an animal eating trough, La Palmera draws an artsy crowd who come to sit at the small wooden tables and nurse a drink or two. The atmosphere is very low-key. In summer the outdoor tables are the place to be.

### LA VÍA LÁCTEA Map pp110-11

**☎** 91 446 75 81: Calle de Velarde 18: **№** 7.30pm-3am: M Tribunal

Another living, breathing and somewhat grungy relic of *la movida*, La Vía Láctea remains a Malasaña favourite for a mixed, informal crowd who seems to live for the 1980s – eveshadow for boys and girls is a recurring theme. There are plenty of drinks to choose from and by late Saturday night anything goes. Expect long gueues to get in on weekends.

## **EL BANDIDO DOBLEMENTE**

ARMADO Map pp110-11 Bar & Bookshop

**☎** 91 522 10 51; Calle de Apodaca 3; **४** 5pm-1am Mon-Wed, 5pm-2am Thu-Sat; M Bilbao or Tribunal Part cool cocktail bar and part bookshop, the 'Double-armed Bandit' is run by the writer Soledad Puértolas and is popular with an artsy crowd keen to keep abreast of the literary scene (it's the focus for numerous literary events). They're also drawn by the smoky, funky music (think Tom Waits and beyond).

## **CONDE DUQUE NIGHTLIFE – DIY**

Conde Duque (Map pp110-11) is one of Madrid's best-kept secrets when it comes to nightlife. There are some longstanding favourites here, among them the café and live music venue Café La Palma (p207), the cosy La Palmera (opposite), the wildly popular nightclub Siroco (p203) and the home all things Brazilian Kabokla (p209).

Calle de la Palma is the centre of most of the action and the following four places, in addition to those mentioned above, cover a range of tastes: old-world El Maño (No 64); the dark and crowded 4 de Latas (No 66); quirky La Caracola (No 70); and dance-crazy Estocolmo (No 72). Just down the road, little El Narania (Calle de San Vicente Ferrer 53: Ppm-midnight Tue-Thu & Sun. 8pm-2.30am Fri & Sat: M Noviciado) is packed to its orange rafters from Thursday to Saturday.

### **J&J BOOKS & COFFEE**

Map pp110-11

Bar & Bookshop

☎ 91 521 85 76; www.iandibooksandcoffee .com: Calle del Espíritu Santo 47: 11am-midnight Mon-Thu, 11am-2am Fri & Sat, 2-10pm Sun; M Noviciado

If you're new in town and keen to meet other members of Madrid's (mostly Englishspeaking) expat community, J&J Books is a fun place to do so. In this agreeable bar atmosphere, it has international exchange nights from 8pm on Wednesday and Thursday and happy hour from 4pm to 7pm Monday to Friday, as well as plenty of books for sale (see p149) downstairs.

### CAFÉ COMERCIAL Map pp110-11

☐ 91 521 56 55; Glorieta de Bilbao 7; 1 7.30ammidnight Mon, 7.30am-1am Tue-Thu, 7.30am-2am Fri, 8.30am-2am Sat, 9am-midnight Sun; M Bilbao This glorious old Madrid café proudly fights a rearguard action against progress with heavy leather seats, abundant marble and old-style waiters. As close as Madrid came to the intellectual cafés of Paris' Left Bank, the cafés of the Glorieta de Bilbao were in the 1950s and 1960s a centre of coffee-house intellectualism with their tertulias (literary discussions) and intrigues. Café Comercial is the largest to remain and has changed little

# top picks

### **GRAND OLD CAFÉS**

- Café Comercial (above)
- Café del Círculo de Bellas Artes (p189)
- Café de Oriente (p186)
- El Parnasillo (right)
- Café-Restaurante El Espejo (right)
- Gran Café de Gijón (p194)

since those days, although the clientele has broadened to include just about anyone.

### CAFÉ ISADORA Map pp110-11

☎ 91 445 71 54; Calle del Divino Pastor 14; 9 4pm-2am Tue-Thu, 4pm-3am Fri & Sat, 4pm-1am Sun: M Bilbao or San Bernardo Echoing the distinguished cafés that once dominated northern Malasaña, Café Isadora has the old-world signposts of another age with the memorabilia of high culture adorning its walls and mid-20th-century décor. But this being Malasaña, it's as good for a mellow evening coffee or a somewhat more raucous middle-of-the-night copa.

### **CAFÉ-RESTAURANTE EL ESPEJO** Map pp110-11

☎ 91 308 23 47; Paseo de los Recoletos 31; 10.30am-1am Sun-Thu, 10.30am-2am Fri & Sat; M Colón

Once a haunt of writers and intellectuals, this modernista gem could well overwhelm you with all the mirrors, chandeliers and bow-tied service of another era; it's quiet and refined, although the outdoor tables are hugely popular in summer.

### **DIURNO** Map pp110–11

Café

☐ 91 522 00 09; www.diurno.com, in Spanish; Calle de San Marcos 37; Y 10am-midnight Mon-Thu, 10am-1am Fri, 11am-1am Sat, 11am-midnight Sun: M Chueca

It's not often that we recommend DVD stores in our guidebooks, but the attached café is always full with a fun Chueca crowd relaxing amid the greenery. We recommend that you join them because this has become one of the most laid-back centres of barrio life.

### **EL PARNASILLO** Map pp110-11

☎ 91 447 00 79; Calle de San Andrés 33; 🥎 2.30pm-3am Sun-Thu, 2.30pm-3.30am Fri & Sat; M Bilbao

3am: M Chueca

**DRINKING MALASAÑA & CHUECA** 

lonelyplanet.com

Another of the grand old literary cafés to have survived close to the Glorieta de Bilbao, El Parnasillo has seigneurial décor with muted Art Nouveau frescoes and stained glass adorning the walls, but it's a favourite drinking hole for the diverse crowd drawn to the Malasaña night for reasons other than the heavy rock scene.

## GRAN CAFÉ DE GIJÓN Map pp110–11 Café

☎ 91 521 54 25; Paseo de los Recoletos 21; 8am-2am; M Chueca or Banco de España This graceful old café has been serving coffee and meals since 1888 and has long been a favourite with Madrid's literati for a drink or a meal. You'll find yourself among intellectuals, conservative Franco diehards and young madrileños looking for a quiet drink. Come here for the history, but you do pay above the odds for the experience.

### ANTIK CAFÉ Map pp110–11

🖻 620 427 168: Calle de Hortaleza 4 & 6: № 5pm-2am Sun-Thu, 5pm-3am Fri & Sat; M Gran Vía The dimly lit interior of Antik Café whispers intimacy and discretion with deep purple walls, antique candlesticks and chandeliers, while downstairs it's dungeon-dark with quiet corners in which to enjoy a private conversation. It draws a pretty sophisticated crowd and the menu includes coffee laced with something a little stronger from the extensive range of spirits.

### CAFÉ PEPE BOTELLA Map pp110-11 Café-Bar

☎ 91 522 43 09; Calle de San Andrés 12; 10am-2am Sun-Thu, 10am-3am Fri & Sat: M Bilbao or Tribunal

Pepe Botella has hit on a fine formula for success. As good in the wee small hours as it is in the afternoon when its wi-fi access draws the laptop-toting crowd, it's a classy bar with green-velvet benches, marbletopped tables, and old photos and mirrors covering the walls. The faded elegance gives the place the charm that's made it one of the most enduringly popular drinking holes in the barrio.

### CAFEINA Map pp110-11

Calle del Pez 18: 3pm-3am Mon-Sat: M Noviciado

Although it lies just before Malasaña disappears into the seedy hinterland of Gran Vía, Calle del Pez is becoming an increasingly hip place and Cafeina is one of the

landmarks of the street's regeneration. It's a lovely downtempo bar with soft lighting, cool music and a mellow crowd. On weekends DJs spice things up a bit upstairs, but it's laid-back and classy most other times.

#### AREIA Map pp110-11 Chill-Out Bar

a 91 310 03 07: www.areiachillout.com: Calle de Hortaleza 92; 12.30pm-3am Mon-Thu, 12.30pm-3.30am Fri-Sun; M Chueca or Alonso Martínez The ultimate lounge bar by day (cushions, chill-out music and dark, secluded corners where you can hear yourself talk, or even snog quietly), this place is equally enjoyable by night. That's when groovy DJs take over (from 11pm Sunday to Wednesday, and from 9pm the rest of the week) with deep and chill house, nu jazz, bossa and electronica. It's cool, funky and low-key all at once, although the cocktails can be pricey.

#### CAFÉ BELÉN Map pp110–11 Chill-Out Bar

**☎** 91 308 24 47; Calle de Belén 5; **№** 3.30pm-3am; M Chueca

Café Belén is cool in all the right places – lounge and chill-out music, dim lighting, a great range of drinks (the *mojitos* are as good as you'll find in Madrid and that's saving something) and a low-key crowd that's the height of casual sophistication.

### EL JARDÍN SECRETO

Map pp110-11

Chill-Out Bar

**2** 91 541 80 23; Calle del Conde Duque 2; ₹ 5.30pm-12.30am Sun-Thu, 6.30pm-2.30am Fri & Sat: M Plaza de España

'The Secret Garden' oozes intimacy and romance in a barrio that's one of Madrid's best-kept secrets. Lit by Spanish designer candles, draped in organza from India and serving up chocolates from the Caribbean, El Jardín Secreto is one of our favourite drinking corners. It's at its best on a summer's evening, but the atmosphere never misses a beat with a loyal and young professional crowd.

### LOLA BAR Map pp110-11

Café-Bar

Chill-Out Bar

₱ 91 522 34 83; www.lola-bar.com; Calle de la Reina 25: 19 6pm-3am Wed-Sun; M Gran Vía If you like your music chilled, Lola Bar is a great place to start your night. On weekends, the DJ ups the tempo a little, but it's more lounge than house and you may find vourself staying longer than you planned.

# **OJALÁ AWARENESS CLUB**

Map pp110-11

Chill-Out Bar

8.30am-1am Sun-Wed, 8.30am-2am Thu-Sat; M Tribunal

From the people who brought you La Musa (p172), Ojalá is every bit as funky and has a lot more space to enjoy it. Yes, you eat well here, but we love it first and foremost for a drink (especially a daiguiri) at any time of the day. Its lime-green colour scheme, zany lighting and a hip, café-style ambience all make it an extremely cool place to hang out, but the sandy floor and cushions downstairs take chilled to a whole new level.

### SANDSET CHILL-OUT LOUNGE Chill-Out Bar

Map pp110-11

☎ 91 542 00 00; Calle del Conde Dugue 30; 10am-1pm & 5pm-midnight Sun-Thu, 10am-1pm & 5pm-3am Fri & Sat; M San Bernardo or Ventura Rodríguez

Whether for your morning coffee or a weekend copa after midnight, Sandset is a welcome recent addition to Conde Duque's emerging cachet. Upstairs is a lazy café with a sense of light and space (it serves great cakes and breakfasts to accompany your coffee), but it's downstairs that wins prizes for imagination with tinkling water, sand on the floor, cushions, wicker beach furniture and sheeshas (€4) to smoke. It's an eclectic mix, but it works.

### BAR COCK Map pp110-11

Cocktail Bar

Mon-Thu, 7pm-3.30am Fri & Sat; M Gran Via With a name like this, Bar Cock could go either way, but it's definitely cock as in 'rooster' so the atmosphere is elegant and classic rather than risqué. The décor resembles an old gentleman's club, but it's beloved by A-list celebrities, those who'd like to be and a refined 30-something crowd who come here for a lively atmosphere and great cocktails. On weekends all the tables seem to be reserved, so be prepared to hover on the fringes of fame.

### **DEL DIEGO** Map pp110-11

Cocktail Bar

Mon-Thu, 7pm-3.30am Fri & Sat; M Gran Via Calle de la Reina is much loved by famosos, especially models, actors and designers, as a place for terrific cocktails in stately surrounds. Del Diego fits this bill perfectly

with a vaguely old-world café-style ambience where you can hear yourself talk. The cocktails (mostly around €9) are among the best in the barrio.

### MERCADO DE LA REINA GIN CLUB Map pp110-11 Cocktail Bar

ବ୍ର 91 521 31 98: Calle de la Reina 16: 4pm-2am; M Gran Vía

In this area of Madrid known for its classy cocktails, this gin club fits right in. But unlike other choices nearby (eg Bar Cock, Del Diego and Museo Chicote), this place has no pretensions to former grandeur; the décor is super-modern and, like the clientele, all dressed in black. With 20 types of gin (€7 to €12) and DJs at night from Thursday to Saturday, it's a happening

### MUSEO CHICOTE Map pp110-11 Cocktail Bar

☎ 91 532 67 37; www.museo-chicote.com; Gran Vía 12: 8am-4am Mon-Sat: M Gran Vía The founder of this Madrid landmark is said to have invented more than a hundred cocktails, which the likes of Hemingway, Ava Gardner, Sophia Loren and Frank Sinatra all enjoyed at one time or another. It's still frequented by film stars and top socialites, and it's at its best after midnight when a lounge atmosphere takes over, couples cuddle on the curved benches and some of the city's best DJs do their stuff (CDs are available). The 1930s-era interior only adds to the cachet of this place. We don't say this often, but if you haven't been here, you haven't really been to Madrid - it's that much of an icon.

### **EL MOJITO** Map pp110–11

Moiito Bar

Calle del Duque de Osuna 6: 19 10pm-4am: M Plaza de España

El Mojito is a modern temple to one of the favourite drinks of madrileños. In fact, it doesn't really serve much else, but the price is right (€6) and the crowd is oh-socool and all dressed in black; the music (often live on Thursdays) is as Cuban as the mojitos. Space is always at a premium (the wall-to-ceiling mirrors make it look larger than it is).

### **MADERFAKER FUNK CLUB**

Map pp110-11

Music Bar

Calle de San Vicente Ferrer 17; 10pm-3am Thu, 10pm-3.30am Fri & Sat: M Tribunal

**DRINKING CHAMBERÍ & ARGÜELLES** 

Dedicated to the black arts of funk, soul and blues, this narrow bar is laid-back cool. It rarely draws the crowds it deserves, but that makes it all the more mellow.

### EL REFUGIO DE MADRID Map pp110-11 Rock Bar

Calle del Conde Duque 14; 9pm-6am Mon-Sat; M Plaza de España

Styling itself as a bastion of classic rock, this brick-lined bar keeps it simple with beer on tap, posters on the walls of its heroes (among them Jimi Hendrix and ZZ Top) and video clips running around the clock in the background. Unlike some Malasaña rock bars you won't find too many heavy rockers here; it's more filled with young, professional punters who love their rock.

### LA VACA AUSTERA Map pp110-11 Rock Bar

**☎** 91 523 14 87; Calle de la Palma 20; **№** 10pmlate Mon-Sat; M Tribunal

Old habits die hard at this veteran bar, which became famous during the heady days of la movida in the 1980s and is still going strong. Its warehouse feel and pool table won't be to everyone's taste, but it's a local icon and a totally unpretentious place to hear alternative rock music and iust about anything from the '60s and '70s.

## **ANTIGUA CASA ÁNGEL SIERRA**

Map pp110-11

Tapas Tavern

**☎** 91 531 01 26; Calle de Gravina 11; **№** noon-1am: M Chueca

This historic old taberna is the antithesis of modern Chueca chic - it has hardly changed since it opened in 1917. As Spaniards like to say, the beer on tap is very

# top picks

### **MADRID'S BEST MOJITOS**

- Café Belén (p194)
- El Eucalipto (p188)
- Dos Gardenias (p190)
- Delic (p188)
- Museo Chicote (p195)
- **El Mojito** (p195)
- Viva Madrid (p189)
- Centro Cubano de España (p191)

'well pulled' here and it also has vermouth on tap. Fronting onto the vibrant Plaza de Chueca, it can get pretty lively of a weekend evening when it spills over onto the plaza. Just don't expect service with a smile.

#### **STOP MADRID** Map pp110-11 Tapas Tavern

☎ 91 521 88 87: Calle de Hortaleza 11: 12.30-4pm & 6.30pm-2am; M Gran Vía The name may not be Madrid's most evocative but this terrific old taberna is friendly, invariably packed with people and wins the vote of at least one Lonely Planet author for the best sangria in Madrid. The tapas are also outstanding and there's always a buzz here in the evenings.

### **VINOTECA BARBECHERA**

Map pp110-11

☎ 91 523 98 16; Calle de Gravina 6; 🥎 1pm-midnight Sun-Wed, 1pm-1am Thu-Sat; M Chueca Amid the frenetic and often suggestive nightlife that rolls across Chueca, this wine bar adds a touch of refinement and caters to Chueca's professional gay and straight crowd. The wine list is more like a menu, and although you'll find occasional drops from elsewhere, Spanish wines across all price ranges are what you come here for.

# **CHAMBERÍ & ARGÜELLES**

Like any barrios in the capital, Chamberí and Argüelles have bars on practically every street corner, but for us there are really only a couple that stand out.

## **DJÉNNÉ** Map pp116–17

☎ 91 448 84 18; Calle de Galileo 74; 🤡 8pm-3am Mon-Sat; M Islas Filipinas

Styling itself as a bar with a passion for travel, this bar could be a real find. The wall-sized mural of Mali's Dienné market and photos from around the world give it something special, but the music is of a fairly standard, late-night bar variety - if only they'd play a few world music tunes, the cocktails would go down a treat. We wouldn't travel all across town to get here. but if you're on your way to or from Galileo Galilei (p208), it's worth a stop.

### **KRYPTON** Map pp116-17

Cocktail Bar

Spanish; Calle de Gonzalo de Córdoba 20; 6pm-2.30am Thu-Sat, 6-11pm Sun; M Bilbao or Quevedo

In the heart of Chamberí, Krypton is a dimly lit, smoky bar with quirky decoration dedicated to the edgy art of Japanese comics, music that could be jazz, electronica or hiphop, and good cocktails (including mojitos). We love it, but it won't be to everyone's taste.

# NORTHERN MADRID

REAL CAFÉ BERNABÉU Map p123

☎ 91 458 36 67; www.realcafebernabeu.es; Gate 30, Estadio Santiago Bernabéu, Avenida de Conche Espina; 10am-2am; M Santiago Bernabéu Overlooking one of the most famous football fields on earth, this place will appeal to those who live and breathe football. Views are exceptional, although it closes two hours before a game and doesn't open until an hour after. There's also a good restaurant.

# **NIGHTLIFE**

# top picks

- **Cool** (p201)
  - Super-sleek nightclub with an upmarket crowd.
- Room at Stella (p203)
- Great DJs and a crowd that never pauses for breath.
- Costello Café & Niteclub (p201)
- A slice of New York in downtown Madrid.
- Cardamomo (p205)
  - Authentic live flamenco that never disappoints.
- Las Tablasp206
- The best flamenco floor show in Madrid.
- Café Central (p206)
- Distinguished live jazz café that draws the big names.
- Café La Palma (p207)
  - Eclectic but always buzzing live music venue.
- Clamores p208
- Top-notch live music across all genres.
- Kaboklap209
- Madrid's home of all things Brazilian.

What's your recommendation? www.lonelyplanet.com/madrid

# **NIGHTLIFE**

Madrid's nightlife rocks. Brilliant clubs that stay open until dawn and cater to just about every dance-floor taste have earned the city a well-deserved reputation for being one of Europe's nightlife capitals and what Hemingway wrote of the place in the 1930s remains true to this day: 'Nobody goes to bed in Madrid until they have killed the night.' But Madrid nights are about far more than dancing the night away. Excellent flamenco venues, funky jazz clubs and an outstanding live music scene are all part of an intoxicating mix.

Although every barrio in the city (with the exception of Paseo del Prado and El Retiro) makes its contribution to the pulsating after-dark *marcha* (action), some barrios definitely offer more *marcha* than others. Los Austrias, Sol and Centro have the widest selection of venues across a range of genres, while Huertas attracts a local and international crowd most nights of the week. Chueca is exuberantly and extravagantly gay (see p224), although everyone's welcome. Neighbouring Malasaña, the spiritual home of *la movida madrileña* (see p32), has never really grown up and is the barrio of choice for grunge rockers, sideburns and an eclectic crowd; it's the antithesis of Salamanca, where it's all about hair gel and designer clothing. Lavapiés and, to a lesser extent, La Latina are gritty, groovy and cool all at once, and definitely among night-time Madrid's best-kept secrets, while Chamberí and Argüelles don't have many venues, but they're worth checking out.

For the best places to find out what's on and where, turn to p212, while a list of places to buy tickets appears in the boxed text, p212.

# **CLUBBING**

NIGHTLIFE CLUBBING

People here live fully for the moment. Today's encounter can be tomorrow's distant memory, but you need to know how things work. Don't even think of starting your night until after midnight (most madrileños will be too busy eating up to that point anyway), hence our suggestion of a late-afternoon siesta. Don't expect the dance clubs or *discotecas* (nightclubs) to really get going until after 1am, and some won't even bat an eyelid until 3am, when the bars elsewhere have closed.

Club prices vary widely, depending on the time of night you enter, the way you're dressed and the number of people inside. The standard entry fee is €10, which usually includes the first drink, although megaclubs and swankier

top picks

**CLUBS** 

- Cool (opposite)
- Kapital (opposite)
- Teatro Joy Eslava (p204)
- **Ohm** (p225)
- Room at Stella (p203)
- Costello Café & Niteclub (opposite)

places charge a few euros more (listed below). Even those that let you in for free will play catch-up with hefty prices for drinks, so don't plan your night around looking for the cheapest ticket.

No barrio in Madrid is without a decent club or disco, but the most popular dance spots are in the city centre. For intimate dancing or quirky décor, head to Chueca or Malasaña.

### AKBAR Map pp110-11

ⓐ 91 532 34 09; Calle de Barquillo 44; admission Mon-Thu free, Fri & Sat €8; № 7pm-5am Mon-Fri, 11pm-6am Sat; M Chueca or Alonso Martínez
All decked out in red and drawing a multicultural crowd, Akbar is slightly more nuanced than your average Madrid night-club. It plays chill-out early in the evening, before upping the tempo to funk, R&B and soul, but it's not averse to a little rap or hiphop if the mood takes it. There are cushions on the floor and occasional live bands (Wednesday at 8.30pm).

### **ALMONTE** Map pp102–3

If flamenco has captured your soul, but you're keen to do more than watch, head to Almonte where the whitewashed façade tells you that this is all about Andalucía, the home of flamenco. The young and the beautiful who come here have *sevillanas* (a flamenco dance style) in their soul and in their feet, so head downstairs to see the best dancing. Dance if you dare.

### **CAPOTE** Map pp110–11

ⓐ 91 319 01 38; Calle de Santa Teresa 3; admission free; № 7pm-3am Tue-Thu, to 3.30am Fri, 8.30pm-3.30am Sat; M Alonso Martínez

Most of the nightlife around Alonso Martínez can be pretty juvenile, but Capote gets an older, more sophisticated crowd. House music with jazz inflections from DJs Kalero and Mikeel Molina gets things going, but it's pretty laid-back and you can hear yourself speak, at least early in the evening.

### COOL Map pp64–5

Cool by name, cool by nature. One of the hottest clubs in the city, the curvy white lines, discreet lounge chairs in dark corners and pulsating dance floor are decked by gorgeous people, gorgeous clothes and a strict entry policy; if a famous DJ is on the bill, expect to pay at least €30. The sexy, well-heeled crowd includes a lot of sleek-looking gay men and model-like women. Things don't really get going until 3am, and the music's a mix of electronica and house with themed gay and rock nights.

### COSTELLO CAFÉ & NITECLUB Map pp64-5

### **EL SON** Map pp84–5

**1** 91 532 32 83; Calle de la Victoria 6; **1** 8pm-5am; **M** Sol

If you're looking for salsa, merengue or some sexy tangos, look no further than El Son. This is one of the top places in town for Latin music, and it's very popular with Madrid's South and Central American population.

### **EÓ** Map pp110–11

### **GARAMOND** Map pp102-3

© 91 578 19 74; www.garamond.es, in Spanish; Calle de Claudio Coello 10; admission €20; № 10pm-6.30am; M Retiro
Better look snazzy, 'cause this place has what's known as a puerta rigurosa, which translates roughly as 'we won't let you in unless you look like you belong in Salamanca'. Although it's aimed at a 30-plus crowd, the atmosphere can get pretty charged and there seems to be enough hormones here to fill a school disco. The decoration is mock-medieval and the music Spanish pop-rock.

### **KAPITAL** Map pp84–5

☎ 91 420 29 06; www.grupo-kapital.com, in Spanish; Calle de Atocha 125; admission €20; 6-10pm & midnight-6am Thu-Sun; M Atocha One of the most famous megaclubs in Madrid, this massive seven-storey nightclub has something for everyone: from cocktail bars and dance music to karaoke, salsa, hip-hop and more chilled spaces for R&B and soul. The crowd is sexy, well heeled and up for a good time. On Sunday, 'Sundance' (otherwise known as 'Kapital Love') is definitely for those who have no intention of appearing at work on Monday, while other nights belong more to the Real Madrid set. We reckon €2 to use the cloak room cheapens an otherwise great package.

### LA CARTUJA Map pp84–5

A real mixed bag of styles, La Cartuja is many people's favourite late-night Huertas club. The decoration is from Andalucía and the music's a mix of Spanish and Latin American tunes with salsa on Wednesday night.

NIGHTLIFE CLUBBING

### LA LUPE Map pp110–11

### MACUMBA Map p123

Plaza Estación de Chamartín; № 11pm-7am Thu & Fri, 5.30-10.30pm & midnight-7am Sat, 10am-midnight Sun; M Chamartín

Macumba, in the Chamartín train station, hardly bothers closing from Thursday night through to Sunday night, with a range of sessions for all ages and styles. Sunday (Space of Sound) is for those who can't bear their Saturday night to end. You could, of course, time your departure to coincide with your train, but you'd be feeling pretty rough.

### **MOMA 56** Map pp116–17

🗃 91 395 20 59; Calle de José Abascal 56; admission €15; 🏵 midnight-6am Wed-Sat; M Gregorio Marañón

Two words: beautiful people. Get your Prada gear on and that studied look of sophistication, and join the small-time celebrities and owners of the flashy sports cars parked out the front. The décor (red padded walls, red lighting) is as sleek as the too-cool crowd who shake off their pretensions once the live percussion fuses into DJ house. There's nowhere quite like it in Madrid.

### MOROCCO Map pp110-11

Owned by the zany Alaska, the standout musical personality of *la movida*, Morocco has décor that's so kitsch it's cool, and a mix of musical styles that never strays too far from 1980s Spanish and international tunes. The bouncers have been known to show a bit of attitude, but then that's almost come to be expected these days, hasn't it?

### NASTI CLUB Map pp110-11

It's hard to think of a more off-putting entrance with Nasti Club's graffiti and abandoned-building look. You also won't find the name outside – if you want to come here you're supposed to know where to find it. Its staple, appropriately, is a faithfully grungy approach to the 1970s (pop, rock and punk), both in terms of music and décor. But it's not as nasty as it sounds and the crowd can span the full range of 1970s throwbacks from a Who's Who of Madrid's underground to some surprisingly respectable types. Very Malasaña.

### **OBA OBA** Map pp64–5

Calle de Jacometrezo 4; 11pm-5.30am Sun-Thu, 6am Fri & Sat; Callao

This nightclub is Brazilian down to its G-strings with live music some nights and dancing till dawn every night of the week. You'll find plenty of Brazilians in residence, which is the best recommendation we can give for the music and the authenticity of its caipirinhas.

### PACHÁ Map pp110–11

This megaclub is one of the international chain of clubs that earned its fame in Ibiza and became a major Madrid club during *la movida*. As serious clubbers have moved on, the oh-my-gosh, barely out of school set turns up in droves for the fun mixture of house, Latin and Spanish music, and mixes it with 30-somethings who never grew up. The name still has a certain cachet on the Madrid nightlife scene, so the odd celebrity turns up here.

### PALACIO GAVIRIA Map pp64-5

An elegant palace converted into one of the most popular dance clubs in Madrid, this is the kind of place where you're guaranteed to meet the locals and probably even a few compatriots as it's beloved of a newly arrived international crowd. The scene can be pretty young and boisterous, the queues are long, and Thursday is international student and house-music night – international relations have never been such fun. Other themed nights include samba on Monday and Reggaeton Tuesday, but we love Sunday with Latin Lover and Bacchanal House Party.

### PENTA BAR Map pp110–11

A night out here and you could be forgiven for believing that *la movida* never died down. It's an informal place where you can groove to the '80s music you love to hate; don't even think of turning up before midnight.

### **ROOM AT STELLA** Map pp84–5

If you arrive here after 3am, there simply won't be room and those inside have no intention of leaving until dawn. The DJs here are some of Madrid's best, and the great visuals will leave you cross-eyed if you weren't already from the house, electronica, new wave or funk in this vibrant, heady place.

### SALA FLAMINGO Map pp110-11

Calle de Mesonero Romanos 13; № 11pm-6am Thu & Sat, 1-7am Fri, 10pm-3am Sun;

M Callao or Gran Vía

One of the most 'in' places in Madrid, Sala Flamingo opens four nights for four very different sessions. Thursday night is 'Frenela Dance Hall', where the '70s is about as modern as it gets. Friday night is 'Ocho y Media', which does modern pop-rock and what is called *rockotrónica* – this is the night when local celebrities flood through the doors. 'Darkhole' on Saturday is all black and Gothic, while Sunday is the '60s with a more chilled atmosphere and occasional live acts.

### SIROCO Map pp110-11

M Noviciado

One of the most popular and eclectic nightclubs in Madrid, Siroco does everything from reggae to acid jazz, from '70s to funk, house and hip-hop. As such it gets a diverse crowd and queues can be long. The one unifying theme is the commitment to Spanish music (sometimes live) and it's a good place to hear local music before it becomes too mainstream.

### **SOL Y SOMBRA** Map pp84–5

Calle de Echegaray 18; admission free; 10pm-3.30am Tue-Sat; M Sevilla Not so long ago, this was one of the coolest live jazz venues in Madrid, with a real buzz attached to it, and it was pretty fussy about who it let in. But the last time we were here, staff were out on the street spruiking for punters on a mild Thursday night. A dispute with the local council has left live music off the menu and with it has gone much of the place's magic and sophistication. It's still a temple to good taste when it comes to the décor (the work of master designer Tomas Alia) and there are plans to restart the live gigs, which is why we include it here.

### STROMBOLI CAFÉ Map pp110-11

## **SUITE CAFÉ CLUB** Map pp64–5

© 91 521 40 31; www.suitecafeclub.com, in Spanish; Calle de la Virgen de los Peligros 4; admission free; № 9pm-3am Tue-Sat; M Sevilla A café-restaurant downstairs, a sleek dance floor up stairs, Suite Café Club is one of the trendiest little clubs in the area (as a glance at the slickly dressed and mainly gay crowd will show), with DJs cooking up some seriously funky sounds.

### **SUPERSONIC** Map pp116–17

Calle de Meléndez Valdés 25; 🏵 9.30pm-3.30am Thu-Sat; M Arqüelles

Madrid has nightclubs in the most unlikely places... On a quiet residential Argüelles street, this great little *discoteca* is one of the best venues for indie music, with a mix of '70s diehard to everything that we loved to hate about Britpop (The Smiths, Oasis etc).

NIGHTLIFE FLAMENCO

### SUSAN CLUB Map pp110-11

www.susanclub.com, in Spanish; Calle de la Reina 23; № 8pm-3.30am Mon-Sat; M Gran Vía

tr's hard to know what sort of music you'll find at the cosy little Susan Club because the bar staff readily admit that they play whatever takes their fancy given the mood of the evening. As a general rule, it's quite funky and downtempo early in the night, with more frenetic and popular tunes, and occasional hip-hop, as the crowd starts to sweat. With smooth cocktails, comfy sofas and the promise of a good time for those who turn up alone, we think it's a good choice.

### TEATRO JOY ESLAVA Map pp64-5

The only things guaranteed at this grand old Madrid dance club (housed in a 19th-century theatre) are a crowd and the fact that it'll be open (it claims to have operated every single day for the past 27 years). The music and the crowd are a mixed bag, but queues are long and invariably include locals and tourists, and even the occasional famoso.

### **TUPPERWARE** Map pp110-11

 a 91 446 42 04; Corredera Alta de San Pablo 26;

 8pm-3.30am Sun-Wed, 9pm-3.30am Thu-Sat;

 M Tribunal

A Malasaña stalwart, Tupperware draws a 30-something crowd, spins indie rock with a bit of soul and classics from the '60s and '70s, and generally revels in its kitsch (eyeballs stuck to the ceiling, and plastic TVs with action-figure dioramas lined up behind the bar). It can get pretty packed on a weekend after 1am. By the way, locals pronounce it 'Tupper-warry'.

### VILLA ROSA Map pp84-5

The extraordinary tiled façade of this long-standing nightclub is a tourist attraction in itself; the club even appeared in the Pedro Almodóvar film *Tacones Lejanos* (High Heels; 1991). The music is what is known as *'comercial'*, which basically means the latest dance hits with nothing too challenging. As such, it's more about Madrid's energy than its latest trends.

### WHY NOT? Map pp110-11

Calle de San Bartolomé 7; 

10.30pm-6am; admission €10; M Chueca

Narrow and packed with bodies, gay-friendly Why Not? is the sort of place where nothing's left to the imagination (the gay and straight crowd who come here are pretty amorous) and it's full nearly every night of the week. Pop and top-40 music are the standard here, and the dancing crowd is mixed and as serious about having a good time as they are about heavy petting. We're not huge fans of the bouncers here, but once you get past it's all about having fun.

# **FLAMENCO**

First, a few home truths about Madrid's flamenco scene. Seeing flamenco in Madrid is, with some worthy exceptions (listed here), expensive - at the tablaos (restaurants where flamenco is performed) expect to pay €30 to €35 just to see the show. The admission price usually includes your first drink, but you pay extra for meals (up to €50 per person) that, put simply, are rarely worth the money. For that reason, we suggest you eat elsewhere and simply pay for the show (after having bought tickets in advance), albeit on the understanding that you won't have a front-row seat. The other important thing to remember is that most of these shows are geared towards tourists. That's not to say that the quality isn't often top-notch - often it's magnificent, spine-tingling stuff. It's just that they sometimes lack the genuine, raw emotion of real flamenco and the atmosphere is not as spontaneous as being surrounded by a knowledgeable crowd who can lift a performer to new heights.

There are alternatives, some of which are listed here, although the dark, smoky bars of flamenco's origins are now pretty thin on the ground. One bar that's always brimful of flamenco atmosphere is El Callejón (p190), while for those of you keen to dance your own version of the *sevillana* (flamenco dance style), Al Monte (p200) is a good choice.

If you don't fancy paying the steep prices of the *tablaos*, other live music venues also have live flamenco, usually one night a week. Such places include Bar&Co (p207), Clamores (p208), ContraClub (p208), El Juglar (p208) and Galileo Galilei (p208).

Festivals are another place to find flamenco; February's Festival Flamenco (p17) and Suma

# top picks

### FLAMENCO VENUES

- Cardamomo (below)
- Las Tablas (p206)
- Las Carboneras (p206)
- Corral de la Morería (right)
- Café de Chinitas (below)

Flamenca (p18) in May are the city's biggest flamenco events and attract the biggest names in the genre.

For more information about flamenco as art form, turn to p45.

### CAFÉ DE CHINITAS Map pp64-5

For a high-end flamenco show in an elegant setting, this traditional *tablao* is the perfect choice. It attracts top performers and big crowds, so book in advance. There's a minimum meal charge of €18 in addition to the admission charge. It may attract loads of tourists, but flamenco aficionados also give it top marks.

### CANDELA Map pp76-7

**☎** 91 467 33 82; Calle del Olmo 3; **№** 10.30pm-late; **M** Antón Martín

Although not quite what it was, Candela draws a foreign crowd upstairs for fairly formal flamenco, while many of Madrid's young performers hang out downstairs in an informal bar where spontaneous music often breaks out late in the evening. To see Candela at its best, come after 1am and respect the atmosphere.

### **CARDAMOMO** Map pp84–5

If you believe flamenco is best enjoyed in a dark, smoky bar where the crowd is predominantly local and where you can dance, clap and even sing along, Cardamomo is ideal. Flamenco and flamenco-fusion tunes are played until late with live shows Tuesday and Wednesday night.

### CASA PATAS Map pp76-7

One of the top flamenco stages in Madrid, this *tablao* always offers unimpeachable quality that serves as a good introduction to the art. It's not the friendliest place in town, especially if you're only here for the show, and you're likely to be crammed in a little, but no-one complains about the standard of the performances.

### CORRAL DE LA MORERÍA Map pp76-7

© 91 365 84 46; www.corraldelamoreria.com; Calle de la Morería 17; admission €32-35; ② 8.30pm-2.30am, shows 10pm; M 0pera
This is one of the most prestigious flamenco stages in Madrid, with 50 years as a leading flamenco venue and top performers most nights. The stage area has a rustic feel, and tables are pushed up close. We'd steer clear of the restaurant, which is overpriced, but the performances have a far higher price-quality ratio. This is where international celebrities (eg Marlene Dietrich, Marlon Brando, Muhammad Ali, Omar Sharif) have always gone for their flamenco fix when in town.

### ESPACIO FLAMENCO Map pp76-7

② 91 298 19 55; http://espacio.deflamenco.com; Calle de la Ribera de Curtidores 26; admission €30; ② 10pm-1am Thu-Sat; M Puerta de Toledo Way down the bottom of the El Rastro hill, this little-known but nonetheless excellent tablao draws occasional big names, but most often showcases young performers before they make the big stage. There's also a commitment here to authentic flamenco and its director, Mari Paz Lucena, is a leading flamenco bailaora, who often takes the stage.

### LA SOLÉA Map pp76–7

This long-standing flamenco bar has live flamenco of a much more improvised kind and which bears little resemblance to the *tablao* floor shows. Usually from around midnight, a knowledgeable crowd of flamenco insiders provides the closest flamenco comes to a jam session. Like any such session, sometimes it works and

**NIGHTLIFE JAZZ CLUBS** 

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sometimes it doesn't, but when it does it has a soulful authenticity that more formal *tablaos* can't quite match.

### LAS CARBONERAS Map pp64–5

© 91 542 86 77; www.tablaolascarboneras.com, in Spanish; Plaza del Conde de Miranda 1; admission from €33; № shows 9pm & 11.30pm Mon-Thu, 8.30pm & 11pm Fri & Sat; ⋒ Ópera, Sol or La Latina Like most of the *tablaos* around town, this place sees far more tourists than locals, but the quality is top-notch. It's not the place for gritty, soul-moving spontaneity, but it's still an excellent introduction and one of the few places that flamenco aficionados seem to have no complaints about.

### LAS TABLAS Map pp64-5

# **JAZZ CLUBS**

Madrid was one of Europe's jazz capitals in the 1920s. It's taken a while, but it's once again among Europe's elite for live jazz. You'll pay about €10 to get into most places, but special concerts can run up to €20 or more.

In addition to the places listed here, other places where you'll often hear jazz include Bar&Co (opposite), Zanzibar (p210) and Clamores (p208).

### **BOGUI JAZZ** Map pp110-11

© 91 521 15 68; www.boguijazz.com in, Spanish; Calle de Barquillo 29; admission €5-10; № 10pm-5.30am Mon-Sat; M Alonso Martínez It's always worth checking out what's happening at Bogui Jazz, where it likes a big-band sound as much as it does intimate ensembles, whether big international names or well-established local groups. If you can't decide between the many groups on offer, the Tuesday-night jam sessions (11pm to 3am) are a good way to get a feel for this terrific venue.

# top picks

**JAZZ VENUES** 

- Café Central (below)
- Populart (opposite)
- El Berlín Jazz Café (below)
- **El Junco Jazz Club** (opposite)

### CAFÉ CENTRAL Map pp84–5

© 91 369 41 43; www.cafecentralmadrid.com, in Spanish; Plaza del Ángel 10; admission €9-15; ☑ 1pm-2.30am Sun-Thu, to 4am Fri & Sat; M Antón Martín or Sol

This Art Deco bar has consistently been voted one of the best jazz venues in the world by leading jazz magazines, and with more than 8000 gigs under its belt, it rarely misses a beat. Big international names like Chano Domínguez, Tal Farlow and Wynton Marsalis have all played here, and there's everything from Latin jazz and fusion to tango and classic jazz. Performers usually play here for a week and then move on, so getting tickets shouldn't be a problem, except on weekends; shows start at 10pm and tickets go on sale an hour before the set starts.

### EL BERLÍN JAZZ CAFÉ Map pp64-5

© 91 521 57 52; www.cafeberlin.es, in Spanish; Calle de Jacometrezo 4; admission €6-12; № 7pm-2.30am Tue-Sun; M Callao or Santo Domingo
El Berlín is something of a Madrid jazz stalwart and the kind of place that some serious jazz fans rave about as the most authentic in town. The atmosphere is vaguely cabaret and the headline acts a Who's Who of world jazz; in the past Al Foster (Miles Davis' drummer), Santiago de Muela and the Calento Jazz Orchestra have all taken to the stage.

### EL DESPERTAR Map pp76-7

every Friday and Saturday, as well as most Thursdays and Sundays. Concerts start at 10.30pm.

### **EL JUNCO JAZZ CLUB** Map pp110–11

☐ 91 319 20 81; Plaza de Santa Bárbara 10; admission free; ☐ 11pm-6am; M Alonso Martínez El Junco has quickly established itself on the Madrid nightlife scene, appealing as much to jazz aficionados as to clubbers. Its secret is high-quality live jazz gigs from Spain and around the world at 11.30pm every night, followed by DJs spinning funk, soul, nu jazz and innovative groove beats. There are also jam sessions in jazz (Tuesday) and blues (Sunday). The emphasis is on black music (music from the American south) and the crowd is classy and casual.

### LA FIDULA Map pp84–5

© 91 429 29 47; www.cafeconciertolafidula.com; Calle de las Huertas 57; admission free-€6; № 8pm-3am Mon-Wed, to 3.30am Thu-Sun; M Antón Martín

Less sophisticated than the other live jazz venues in the barrio, La Fidula is nonetheless a longstanding favourite for people who know their jazz and like it spontaneous. Drinks are reasonably priced and there are Sunday jazz jam sessions (9pm to midnight). Blues performers occasionally take to the stage here as well.

### **POPULART** Map pp84–5

ⓐ 91 429 84 07; www.populart.es, in Spanish; Calle de las Huertas 22; admission free; ⓑ 6pm-2.30am Mon-Fri, to 3.30am Fri & Sat; ⋒ Antón Martín or Sol One of Madrid's classic jazz clubs, this place offers a low-key atmosphere and top-quality music, which is mostly jazz with occasional blues, swing and even flamenco thrown into the mix. Think Compay Segundo, Sonny Fortune and the Canal Street Jazz Band and you'll get an idea of the quality on offer here. The shows start at 11pm, but if you want a seat get here early.

### **SEGUNDO JAZZ** Map p123

This well-regarded jazz venue focuses on up-and-coming local talents as well as a few international acts. It's an agreeable, unpretentious place where the quality is always high and the atmosphere nice and

laid-back. Tuesday is given over to jam sessions from 11pm, while other concerts start anywhere from 9pm to midnight.

# **LIVE MUSIC**

Madrid is Spain's undisputed king of live music and it just keeps getting better. It wasn't always thus. Madrid made its name as a live music city back in the 1980s when drugs and rock music fuelled the decade-long fiesta known as la movida madrileña (see p32), but it was all pretty one-dimensional. And so it staved until the late 1990s when big international names began once again including the Spanish capital on their European tours and, perhaps more importantly, live music venues catering to all tastes began populating just about every barrio of the city. While rock remains a Madrid mainstay and the doors of a handful of classic venues (Clamores, Honky Tonk and Moby Dick) remain open, the live music scene is in rude health covering every genre - world music, soul, blues, singer-songwriter, acoustic - on just about every night of the week. Many of these concert venues double as clubs where DIs follow the live acts. making it possible to start off the night with a great concert and stay on to party until late.

In addition to checking the websites of each individual club, a good website to find out what's happening is La Noche En Vivo (www.lanocheenvivo.com in Spanish); click on 'Actuaciones' for upcoming concerts and on 'Sala' for a list of venues. Another good source is La Carega (www.lacarega.com in Spanish).

### BAR&CO Map pp110-11

® 91 521 24 47; www.barcobar.com, in Spanish; Calle del Barco 34; admission free-€6; № 8pm-5.30am Sun-Thu, 10.30pm-6am Fri & Sat; M Tribunal

Just before Malasaña spills over into the seedy backside of Gran Vía, Bar&Co is an outstanding live venue with jazz, flamenco, Latin music, funk, rock or blues. There's room to dance if the mood takes you and the crowd is almost exclusively local. There's a jazz jam session at 12.15am on Sunday, and flamenco star Enrique Morente is known to turn up here as well.

### CAFÉ LA PALMA Map pp110-11

© 91 522 50 31; www.cafelapalma.com, in Spanish; Calle de la Palma 62; admission free-€6; № 4pm-2am Sun-Thu, to 3.30am Fri & Sat; M Noviciado

NIGHTLIFE LIVE MUSIC

lonelyplanet.com

# top picks

### LIVE MUSIC VENUES

- Café La Palma (p207)
- Clamores belowGalileo Galilei right
- Honky Tonk (opposite)
- Kabokla (opposite)
- La Escalera de Jacobopposite
- Zanzibar p210

It's amazing how much variety Café la Palma has packed into its labyrinth of rooms. Live shows featuring hot local bands are held at the back, while DJs mix up the front. Some rooms have a café style, while others evoke an Arab tearoom, pillows on the floor and all. You might find live music other nights, but there are always two shows at 10pm and midnight from Thursday to Saturday. Every night is a little different.

### **CLAMORES** Map pp116–17

🗃 91 445 79 38; www.clamores.es, in Spanish; Calle de Alburquerque 14; admission €5-20; 🏵 6pm-3am Sun-Thu, to 4am Fri & Sat; M Bilbao

Clamores is a one-time classic jazz café that has morphed into one of the most diverse live music stages in Madrid. Jazz is still a staple, but world music, flamenco, soul fusion, singer-songwriter, pop and rock all make regular appearances. Live shows can begin as early as 9pm but sometimes really get going after 1am on weekends.

### **CONTRACLUB** Map pp76-7

ContraClub is a crossover live music venue and nightclub, with live flamenco on Wednesday and an eclectic mix of other live music (jazz, blues, world music and rock) from Thursday to Sunday; after the live acts (which start at 10.30pm), the resident DJs serve up equally eclectic beats to make sure you don't move elsewhere. To get a feel for their concerts, check out www.contraclub.tv. You'll see plenty of well-known Spanish actors here as one of the owners is Antonio Molero,

who plays Fiti in the Telecinco TV series Los Serrano.

## COSTELLO CAFÉ & NITECLUB Map pp64-5

www.costelloclub.com; Calle del Caballero de Gracia 10; admission free-€7; ☆ 6pm-3am; M Gran Vía

This funky little nightclub has live pop, rock and occasional electronica from 9pm Thursday to Saturday and sometimes on other nights. Even if there's nothing live on stage, it's still a great place to be (see p201).

### EL BUHO REAL Map pp110-11

© 91 319 10 88; www.buhoreal.com, in Spanish; Calle de Regueros 5; admission €4-6; № 8pm-3am Sun-Thu, to 3.30am Fri & Sat; M Alonso Martínez or Chueca

It looks like your average Madrid bar de copas, but El Buho Real (The Royal Owl) is all about acoustic music. It interprets the term pretty widely to include flamenco and singer-songwriter solo acts, and it's been around long enough to have drawn a loyal following. Concerts start at 9.30pm.

### **EL JUGLAR** Map pp76–7

© 91 528 43 81; www.salajuglar.com; Calle de Lavapiés 37; admission €5-20; № 9pm-3am Sun-Wed, to 3.30am Thu-Sat; M Lavapiés
One of the hottest spots in Lavapiés, this great venue is for a largely bohemian crowd with a rock-dominated programme leavened with flamenco on Sunday and occasional rumba, jazz and soul beats.
Concerts begin around 9.30pm and then it's DJ-spun Latin tunes after midnight.

### EL RINCÓN DEL ARTE NUEVO Map pp76–7

91 365 50 45; www.rincondelartenuevo.com, in Spanish; Calle de Segovia 17; admission €7-10;
 9.30pm-4.30am Sun-Thu, to 6am Fri & Sat;
 M La Latina

With 29 years in the business, this small venue knows what its punters like and it serves up a nightly feast of singer-songwriters for an appreciative crowd. The acts are as diverse as the genre itself, with Melendi, Fran Postigo and Diego El Negro among the recent performers. Concerts start at 10pm.

### GALILEO GALILEI Map pp116–17

ⓐ 91 534 75 57; www.salagalileogalilei.com, in Spanish; Calle de Galileo 100; admission free-€16; ⓑ 6pm-4.30am; M Islas Filipinas There's no telling what will be staged here next, but it's sure to be good as the list of past performers attests: Jackson Browne, El Cigala, Kiko Veneno, Niña Pastori and Brazilian songstress Cibelle among others. The programme changes nightly, with singersongwriters, jazz, flamenco, folk, fusion, indie, world music and even comedians. Most performances start at 10.30pm.

### **HONKY TONK** Map pp116–17

ⓐ 91 445 61 91; www.clubhonky.com, in Spanish; Calle de Covarrubias 24; admission free; № 9pm-5am: M Alonso Martínez

Despite the name, this is a great place to see local rock 'n' roll, though many acts have a little country or some blues thrown into the mix, too. It's a fun vibe in a smallish club that's been around since the heady 1980s. Arrive early as it fills up fast.

### KABOKLA Map pp110-11

Run by Brazilians and dedicated to all things Brazilian, Kabokla is terrific. Live Brazilian groups play most nights from around 10pm (from percussion to samba and cover bands playing Chico Buarque). When there's no live music, the DJ gets the crowd dancing. It also serves Madrid's smoothest *caipirinhas* and runs samba and capoeira classes outside opening hours (see p269).

### LA BOCA DEL LOBO Map pp84-5

Known for offering mostly rock and alternative concerts, La Boca del Lobo (The Wolf's Mouth) is as dark as its name suggests and has broadened its horizons, adding country and jazz to the line-up, with weekly roots and groove jam sessions on Wednesday. Concerts start at 10.30pm most nights and DJs take over once the live acts leave the stage.

### LA ESCALERA DE JACOB Map pp76–7

'Jacob's Ladder' is a perfect fit for Lavapiés, with world music (especially African) on Saturday and sometimes other nights, as well as indie, jazz, soul, funk, folk, fusion, and even theatre and short films. Behind this intimate venue is a philosophy of crossing boundaries and refusing to be contained within specific genres and this alternative slant on life makes for some terrific live performances and a crowd of like-minded patrons.

### LA FONTANA DE ORO Map pp84–5

This Irish bar lays claim to being the oldest bar in Madrid, dating back to 1789. Mentioned in *La Fontana de Oro*, the novel by Benito Pérez Galdós (see p36), the upstairs bar is dedicated in part to the author and it's here that nightly Celtic or rock groups take to the stage at 10pm. Wander downstairs to see the original decoration with stained-glass windows.

### LIBERTAD 8 Map pp110-11

@ 91 532 11 50; Calle de la Libertad 8; admission free-€6; № 5pm-2.30am Mon-Fri, 6pm-3am Sat, 4pm-1am Sun; M Chueca

At 9pm every night a storyteller does their stuff, often role-playing and drawing the audience into the performance. Half an hour later, a local or international singer-songwriter takes to the stage. We like the mix, and it's intimate venues like these that add depth to the Madrid night.

### MARULA CAFÉ Map pp76-7

An Afro haircut would be the perfect look here, where the music (concerts at 11.30pm, DJs until sunrise) is all about funk, soul, jazz, music from the American South, Afrobeat and even a little hip-hop. It's a club with attitude and always has a great rhythm.

### MOBY DICK Map p123

Moby Dick is a stalwart of the live music scene. It's mostly well-known rock bands who can't quite fill the 25,000-seater venues, and there are plenty of dance bars alongside if the music's not to your liking. The house band plays at 11.30pm on Monday, with the programme chosen by the punters.

### SALA CARACOL Map pp126-7

The 'Snail Room' is a long-standing, small live venue with industrial décor and it plays host to everything from jazzy flamenco to heavy metal. Unlike other places, it only opens when it has concerts, so check the programme and never just turn up.

### SALA EL SOL Map pp64–5

Sala El Sol opened in 1979, just in time for *la movida*, and quickly established itself as a leading stage for all the icons of the era, such as Nacha Pop and Alaska y los Pegamoides. *La movida* may have faded into history, but it lives on at El Sol, where the music rocks and rolls and always resurrects the '70s and '80s.

### **TABOÓ** Map pp110–11

🗃 91 524 11 89; www.taboo-madrid.com, in Spanish; Calle de San Vicente Ferrer 23; admission €10; 🕑 10.30pm-6am Thu-Sat; M Tribunal With everything from pop to hard-core punk and a whole lot of house music in between, Taboó likes to keep its options open. Check out the website to see which way it's leaning, and spend as little time as

possible talking to the bouncers while you wait in the queue.

### ZANZIBAR Map pp110-11

## **MEGA-VENUES**

Madrid is a major stop on the European tour circuit. Summer is undoubtedly the best time to see the big names, but headline acts arrive in town throughout the year and play at the following venues:

Auditorio Parque Juan Carlos I ( 91 721 00 79; www parquejuancarlos.net/parquejuancarlosi/auditorio.htm; Avenida de Logroño; M Campo de las Naciones)

### Plaza de Toros Monumental de Las Ventas (Map

pp102–3; a 91 356 22 00; www.las-ventas.com, in Spanish; Calle de Alcalá 237; M Ventas)

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