

MÁLAGA GOLF AND ITS PARADOR

CAPITAL CITY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SPIRIT

*"You last, you never go down, and the sea
moans and shorts for you, city of my happy
days, mother city, white city where I lived
and that I remember, angel city that,
highest than the sea, rules the waves."*

Vicente Aleixandre

ANTEQUERA'S SUN

During the Jurassic, Malaga's sea reached to Antequera. One hundred and fifty millions years later, when mountains surged due to mountain bending, the sea searched for deeper downs leaving there the strange and naked stone-made abyssal shapes.

The air, the sun and the weather showed up, later, to shape up the final landscape of El Torcal, extraordinary and oniric. Further later, 5.700 years ago, but not further away, to the north-west, men left its footprint; land and stone workers, worried by death, who built honourable mausoleum for the bones of their loved ones. The dolmen groups Menga, Viera and el Romeral are a real wonder. There are also evidences of the Malaga's prehistoric communities which are also important close to *la Peña de los Enamorados*, the mountain that divides Antequera and Archidona which, according to the legend, was the scene of the unlucky love of a moor girl and a Christian man, whose impossible love ended in the sides of this mountain.

There, the water of Sierra de Camarolos that runs down to the Guadalmedina created an important fish salting area, which the Phoenicians named *Malak*, eight centuries before our time. From that seed of the city of Malaga, we have survived a first wall, adapted to the sides of the lands imposed by the river, which evolved with time and with the work of people, accrediting the intervention in it of the Phoenicians, Punes and Romans. The first abandoned its sites with the creation of a commercial empire by the Punes from Carthage, at the end of the 6th C. BC. Close to Malaka, Greeks founded Mainake, but this small site does not last longer than a century, devastated by Cartagians, who dominated the area until 206 BC.

THE BASES OF POWER

In those days, just at the beginning of the 3rd Century BC, Romans register the city in the Flavian-Malicitan municipality. During the 1st C., Malaga's territories became an administration of Roman Law. The most valuable heritage we now have of the Roman domain in this area is the theatre, built in Augustus ages and in use until the 3rd C AD. It is not a very big theatre but it is one of the most ancient of the peninsula. The transformation into Roman that, first with the Republic and then with the Empire, was lived by the people, with the language, the administration, the rules and the construction systems and of exploitation of the land, had also in theatre a great way of social and cultural education with important prints.



Those are great years in which the city is crossed by the road that links the marina with the citadel and the walls surround the neighbourhoods of the Jew and Genovese merchants. The Arab footprint is clearly seen in the urban creation of other villages of the province: Casares, Marbella, Benalmadena, Torrox and especially Frigiliana, winner of the National Award of Embellishment because of the care and respect to history with which it has kept its downtown and the neighbourhoods of El Calvario, San Antonio and Barribarte, untouched since the Moor origin.

BLACK PLAGUE AND FLOODS

If we believe Titus Livius, Roman theatre adapts from the Etruscan, not from the Greek, as we have always thought. These first shows would be Roman representations, mimicry of political people. On stage, the company of actors represented their satire, of clear social critic, covering their faces with masks that represented different roles. And there are some genres of that comedy still alive in our days with their characteristics like the Spanish Golden Century, and even in our main characters: the villain, the man in love, the miserly, the grumpy...

That stone-made area, with its *orchestra*, reserved for important people, its entry full of statues at the end of the stands, the front of the scene (covered with columns) that guaranteed great acoustics, and its *vomitories* to access to the stands without interrupting those already enjoying the show who were divided according to their social class. The first stands and the orchestra were the ideal place for flaunt and to make agreements, businesses and conspiracy.

GARDEN OF MUSES

Romans were followed by the Vandals that arrive to the south of the peninsula when the rest was already occupied by other German people and that is the origin of the name given to this land: Andalucía, from landlose, without land. The rest of the name came centuries later, when Arabs invaded the Iberian Peninsula. Of all the etymologic explanations maybe the most beautiful is that that translates Al Andalus for "Paradise" and that justified etymology in Greek-Roman tradition that locates in Far West the Garden of Hesperids.

To this paradise guarded by the nymphs of dusk, in which garden grew the golden apple tree of immortality, arrived the Arabs crossing the Straight. The Arabs followers of Omar ben Hafsun, born in Ronda, arrived to find shelter. However, the city had to wait still some hundreds of years to reach its maximal splendour, with the Cordoba caliphate, during the dynasties of Hammudies and Ziries. One of these last kings was the one to carry out in 1057 the enlargement and recovery of the citadel we see now, which origin goes back to the Roman area. Gibralfaro's Castle is a most modern work, which began at the end of the 13th C, belonging to the period in which Malaga depended of the Nazari kingdom of Granada .

The black plague divided in two the 14th C. The illness devastated Europe and ends up with the lived of a third of its population. The epidemic, probably arriving from Asia, to Italy, through Genova and Venice, runs through France, England and Spain . This devastating illness kills Alfonso XI, the Christian king, in 1348, during the war in Gibraltar. The economic and demographic disaster the illness created touched all the social groups: it made farmers stop working in the land, it ruined the urban bourgeoisie who could not pay the credits, it reduced the lords' rents, it obliged the monarchy to establish salaries, made looting, vengeance and xenophobia easier (against the Jews, who were blamed for causing the illness poisoning the wells), and apocalyptic behaviours in opposed directions: ones too free, ones too punishing.

While in Italy the plague had opened a breach in the Medieval darkness towards a brighter Renaissance period, in Spain, Christianity ended with the last Muslim site in Malaga, on August 19th, 1487. The site was long and victory was hard. The army of the Catholic King and Queen had to



fight the 15000 soldiers of the enemies that took refuge inside Gibralfaro Castle. King Ferdinand waited the end of the battle, and also lived a visit from the Virgin who announced the long waited triumph. Then, all the neighbours were deported or were sold as slaves. To compensate the cruel lack of population, 6.000 Christians were hired who, with the stimulus of the gifted land and other privileges, made their homes in the province.

War and the change of Malaga into Christian hands tragically changed its geography. The Mediterranean mountains have disappeared and with it the villages by the river. Added to the burn and tree felling used as tactic against the enemy, we have the bad ages in olive and grape crop. In a short time, what once was a “deep and strong” river, of clear waters both in winter and summer, loss its depth and strong waters. So, in 1544, the first of the tragic floods took place and since then they have become a part of Guadalmedina history.

PEOPLE’S RETURNS AND RIOTS

The construction of parishes, the prohibition of language, baptisms and forced conversions and other measures taken by the Crown of Castille to Christianise the land were not enough to end with the seed of the andalusi culture. In 1502 the riots repeated in the Sierra de Ronda, the Alpujarras and Albaicín. Less than a century later, between 1609 and 1614, the Crown leads the definitive deportation, that which, ordered by Philip II and executed by the corrupt Duke of Lerma and by his minister, Rodrigo Calderón, expelled the Moors our of Spain. It is the beginning of the crash of the monarchy which increases the powers of the Councils at the death of Philip II. The expel affects to 300000 moors.

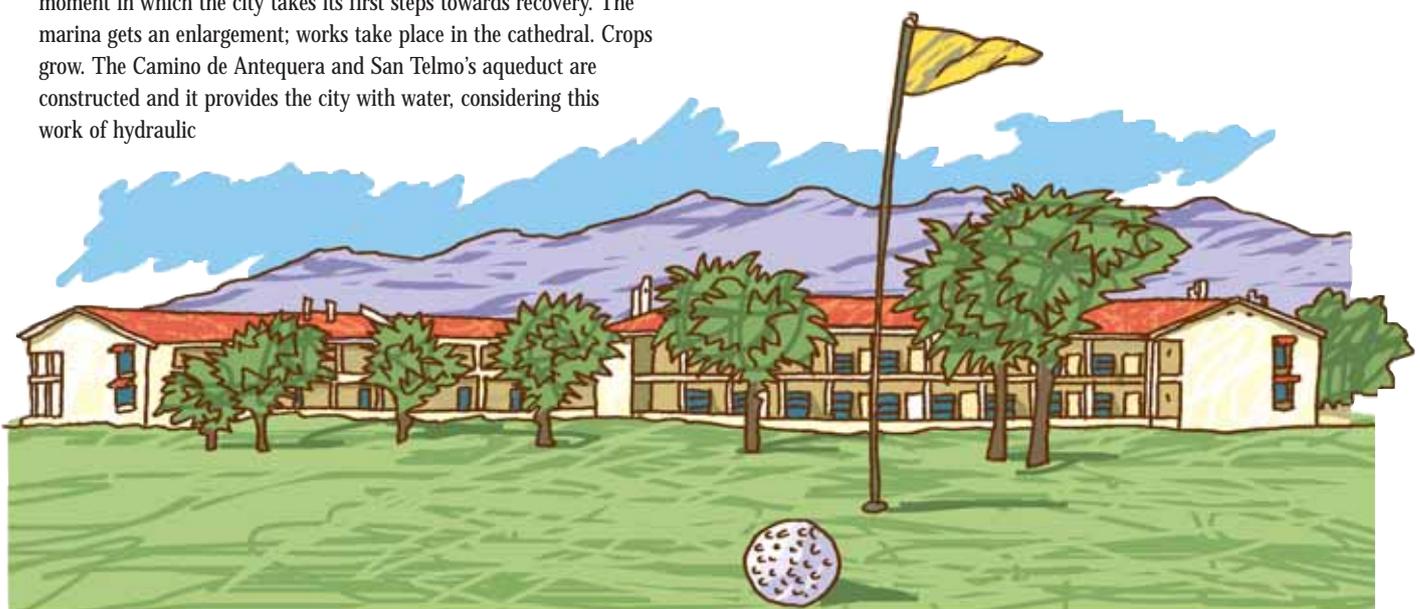
“Some pro-men – writes the historian Vicen Vivens- took advantage of the movement of goods, properties and leasing; but the country lost a new source of energies in the same moment in which they had to face the major economic, social and political crisis of the 17th C.”.

During the 70’s of the 17th century, the strength of a new outbreak of the plague, coming into Spain , through the ports in the coast of Andalucia, is strongly suffered by Malaga ’s people. The critical stage enlarges with bad crops and hunger to the beginnings of the next century, moment in which the city takes its first steps towards recovery. The marina gets an enlargement; works take place in the cathedral. Crops grow. The Camino de Antequera and San Telmo’s aqueduct are constructed and it provides the city with water, considering this work of hydraulic

engineering the most important of the century carried out in Spain. This work is the result of the efforts of the bishop Molina Lario and Navarro, responsible for the diocese, before the urgent need for water, given the growth lived by the port and the economic activities. The aqueduct brought the water from the Molino del Inca, taking advantage of the waters of Arroyo Humaina and was its channel for 10.800 meters over 30 bridges-aqueducts, over brooks, making fountains surge. Although financing mainly came from the Bishop and the authority of the cathedral, it was soon administered by the Nautical School of San Telmo, from which it gets its name. Apart of water with good qualities to drink, the aqueduct made work several flour and sawdust mills. The considerations of the church promotes guaranteed 600 fanegas a day which represented more than the half of the total used and that up to that moment was carried from the mills in Torremolinos y Churriana. Martin de Aldehuela was the technical author of the engineering.

ROMANTICISM AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

In May 2nd, 1808 Malaga ’s people rises against the French invader at Montes Orientales, El Torcal and la Serranía de Ronda. The unusual join action of the guerrillas and the allied army, led by Wellington , is able to take Napoleon’s armies back to the Pyrenees . Malaga is torn into pieces, they had even to built a new City Hall. The political situation of the country during the kingdom of Fernando VII is dangerously unstable. In 1831, the city is the scenario of the shooting of the outsider Torrijos, who got there from Gibraltar and that tired to raise the troops of Andalucia against the King. So wrote the Spanish romantic writer José de Espronceda:



*Helos allí: junto a la mar bravía
cadáveres están ¡ay! los que fueron
honra del libre, y con su muerte dieron
almas al cielo, a España nombrada.
Ansia de patria y libertad henchía
sus nobles pechos que jamás temieron,
y las costas de Málaga los vieron
cual sol de gloria en desdichado día.
Españoles, llorad; mas vuestro llanto
lágrimas de dolor y sangre sean,
sangre que ahogue a siervos y opresores,
y los viles tiranos con espanto
siempre delante amenazando vean
alzarse sus espectros vengadores.*

After three years have passed, a new riot takes place in Malaga and the civil and military governors were killed. The Royal Decree of August 21st, 1843 on the occasion of the political rumbles that determined the fall of General Espartero, grants Malaga the title of "Always Grimed"; and, in the seal of the city, the motto "The First in the Danger of Freedom". However, the political incidents cannot avoid that the city lives its industrial boom.

From 1834, iron in Malaga has lived an incredible increase in the activity which made of it the first iron producer of the country. The city net of pre-industrial Malaga is already small. Factories made workers come to the city, and since then they become proletariat. The city builds from them a workers neighbourhood, at the right side of the river, well separated from the bourgeoisie. However, good times did not last long. From 1880, while the city closes the foundries, in the countryside, phylloxera destroys the vines what leads to abandoning the country houses, the deforestation of the mountain sides and, again, repeated and terrible floods that run over several bridges. The flood of 1907 is so devastating that it calls out the attention of King Alfonso XIII who orders a defence plan to the general director of Hydraulic Works which is inaugurated in 1911. Since then, and also thanks to reforestation, waters are on their bed.

Foreign investors like Loring, Huelin or Gross choose this place to establish their businesses. The prestigious winery Jiménez y Lamonthé becomes a property of the Marquis of Larios, located at La Constancia street. The elaboration of Malaga wine, manzanera and brandy are only some of the activities that Larios, in the following years, carried out and that allow establishing industrial and mercantile relationships in the development of the train Málaga-Córdoba, the insurance company, the bank of Malaga, factories of oil and soaps at Torre del Mar and coal mines.



THE BIRTH OF COSTA DEL SOL

Some people say that the Castle of Sir George Langworthy was the first hotel at Costa del Sol. Only two years later, in Torremolinos the first golf turf opened its doors. The work of the *Sociedad Propagandística del Clima y Embellecimiento de Málaga*, created to fight the crisis of 1897, gave the first profits. Hotels like Reina Victoria in Ronda, Hotel Colón in Antequera or the Comercial in Marbella accredited the tourism interest the province had and that was shattered by the Spanish Civil War.

The tourism boom burst in the 60's. Beaches are full with foreigners. Hotels and apartments change their shape transforming small villages in busy tourist areas. The economic improvement favoured by Marshal Plan, the technological advance of transportation, the easy currency exchange and the recovery of Europe and the United States, of weak economy after the World War, fostered it. From that moment on, except for the years that follow the oil crisis of 1978, which reduced the number of hotel, the growth and prosperity of Costa del Sol, thanks to tourism, has done nothing but grow.

Malaga is a city of great emotional spirit, fully typical, whose enjoyment is obliged for the traveller who has to go beyond the interferences of a bad urban development that puts the railways right in its heart and obliges to wander around. Now, the city is stressing communication, accessibility and culture. Its future, like those of others (Granada, Córdoba, and Seville) will be tourism. Subway and other urban infrastructures, plus the municipal bet on unconditional support for art, is rising a new and modern city, the must destination in Andalucía.

It is very possible that when the client lodged at Parador Malaga Golf reads these lines the Thyssen Museum is already open. The art gallery, plus the two museums dedicated to Picasso (birth house and museum) and to the Contemporary Art museum, make a full offer more than attractive. The area of tourism of the City Hall links the visit to these museums with sightseeing tours to visit wineries and flamenco palaces. We now highlight what you should not miss and the ways to reach to these incredible sites.

ESSENTIAL MALAGA

■ Alcazaba

Recently improved, the Arab wall scratches the heights of this wonderful city both with daylight and with the artificial light that lights it at night. Visiting it is free. Schedules change in summer and winter and it would be better if you check them at the Tourism Office (Tel.: 952 213 445). The monument, of 11th-12th C, built as a defensive citadel during the 11th Century by the King Badis of Granada, has been for centuries the balcony for poets and its been object for painters and singers.

■ Roman Theatre

Close to the Alcazaba, hidden for centuries, this theatre of Augustus ages, still has its orchestra and the vomitorium. The stands are still suitable for shows. Possible, very soon, natives and foreigners may enjoy here classical art works. By now, we can only enjoy a visit to the construction.

■ La Encarnación Cathedral

Close to the city's park (Molina Lario, 9), the cathedral is surrounded by an urban cosmopolitan garden of plants brought from abroad and a patio full of orange trees, survivors of the former mosque. Malaga's people call it "the one-armed" because it does not have the southern tower. This cathedral is of Renaissance style. The first traces, now disappeared, are by the Renaissance architect and sculptor Diego de Siloé (1495-1563). The temple, of rectangular base, has three naves of the same height and two laterals. The transept has been restored some years ago.

■ Museo Picasso Málaga.

C/ San Agustín, 8

Do not take it for the Fundación Casa Natal Picasso, (located at Plaza de la Merced, 15). The beautiful Palacio de Buenavista, of Andalusian style from the 16th Century, shelters since 2003 a collection of more than 200 works of the artist that include both canvases and earthenware or drawings. Since its opening, the museum has been offering important shows related with Picasso's world, showing people works of great painting masters like Matisse, Miró, Balthus, Chagall, Dubuffet, Magritte and Giacometti. Visitors can also look at the ruins found in the underground of the Palace corresponding to the Phoenician, Roman, Arab and Renaissance ages.

■ Gibralfaro Castle

It is a fortress of the 15th C., located on the mount of the same name where we enjoy the best views over the city and the port. Where the Muslim fortress is now located once was a lighthouse in the Phoenician times. For a while, Gibralfaro Castle and the Alcazaba were united by a wall. There is a bus that takes you there, departing from Paseo del Parque.

■ Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga. Between Avenida del Comandante Benítez and C/ Alemania.

Contemporary art promoted by the City Hall of the city and managed by a private company that takes the model of the German "Kunsthaus". It holds works from the impressionism to our days, with interesting background and international names like Ron Mueck showing his work in temporary shows.

EXCURSIONS: FROM THE MOUNTAIN TO THE "TABERNA"

Just 20 kilometres away from the capital we find the some vines that the amateur wine expert can visit and that are the origin of wines like those with O.D "Montes de Malaga". The winery Antigua Casa La Guardia was founded after the great plague, in 1895. You have to leave the city by the motorway to Ollas, leaving behind you the neighbourhood named El Palo. El Lagar del Romerillo, where we are going and that has in the plot the facilities, both for the production of grapes, the elaboration of wines, is just some kilometres away from Ollas. Behind the eucalyptus forest we see the working house. The good conditions of the house shall not get us wrong; we are in the most ancient winery of the province, with an age of more than a hundred and fifty years of work on it. The wine amateur is probably interested in knowing that this land is slate, what keeps the roots wet and that they are planted facing dawn save from sandy winds.

While the visitor gets an update of the tricky history this winery has passed, (change of owner, economic crisis, phylloxera, administrative conditions, technical evolution...) take a look to the floor, like eaten by cowpox; a safety measure, of long practice, which avoided slippery floor. Here you drink the glass you have been offered as if you were praying in a sanctuary. The white wine with O.D "Sierra de Malaga is golden, very clear, fresh, with a fruity and acid taste, different to red ones, of body and structure, very tasty and with the flavour of the land where it was born. Here they also create "Malaga" that, as the visitor knows, is a very old wine with worldwide name. The first news of its name is of 1244, date in which Phillip Augustus, king of France, ordered the called "Battle of wines" in which the wine of this land ended up with the name of The Bishop of Wines.

Back to the city, undoing the road we have taken towards the mountains, let's visit the tabernas. Canovas del Castillo, a man from Malaga with capitals and politician that is in history thanks to his caution in extreme moments, used to have a Malaga before each of his speeches to "cheer up his words". The visitor is recommended the visit to two of the bunch of establishments where to entry to try to differentiate the wines by region, variety, colour, amount of sugars... and to exchange impressions with others, which are: El Pimpi, (C/ Granada, 68) with signed barrels, Andalusian patio and a non-smoking area; and "Lo güeno" (C/ Martín García, 9), that apart of the great wine served from the barrels of the bar, it has passed forty years bringing people in because of its tapas that are taste free and change each day. It also has a patio.

FLAMENCO EXCURSION: THE CHARMS OF NIGHT

Before wandering through the night the tourist thirsty of flamenco must know that in this land lived a master during modernism. Rubén Darío listened to him in a patio bursting of flowers. "The best known «cantaor», that who joined the parties of King Alfonso XII -tells the poet-. Juan Brea howled or moaned, like a wolf or a love bird, showing the past of these sunny regions, all Moor, all full of sadness". Born in Vélez-Málaga, Antonio Ortega receives his nickname from his early dedication to fruit street vending. «The figs of the mountains/ of Vélez-Málaga / are the sweetest. / And I present them to taste them!» His

first steps as professional “cantaor” were at the Café del Sevillano, at calle Siete Revueltas.

La Peña Juan Brea, Callejón del Picador, 2, close to Calle Beatas (close to plaza de la Merced) is one of the most important of the country. Its museum, still located in its showcases, will be the greatest flamenco museum of the world. Its discotheque of slate discs is a treasure. Antique guitars, wardrobe and a library full of incunable books of obliged reference guard this Malaga temple of sing, play and dance. Entrance is free any day of the week. Its programme includes courses, speeches and conferences and, of course, concerts; Friday nights at 23.00. And also, the first Saturday of each month cabbage is served and at the end of this supper there are dances by a full flamenco company. If this were not enough, La Peña Juan Brea has agreement with Tourism to be a part of a group visit to Picasso Museum.

This route through Malaga living the deepest art of Andalucia has to stop at Flamenca, Paco Rojí's shop whose nickname is GPS because it is the best way to find out flamenco's agenda of the town and nearby. In his shop, apart of discs, books, guitars for beginners, boxes, professional castanets, skirts, dancing suits, etc., you will find a great supporter dedicated to spreading flamenco. He, best than anyone else, will inform you of the activities of that moment.

The city of Malaga counts with 30 “peñas” that, from October to May, perform in more than 50 feasts, because each association organises its own festival. Since 2005 there is a biennial in September with the most important performers of those years. From the boom of the 60's in which Costa del Sol got to have open more than 200 “tablaos”, still survive the most memorable. In Marbella “Ana María” and “Donde María”, true singing and dance. And in Torremolinos “Los tarantos”, where Trini and Pepe Carrete spread their art.

In the capital city, there is also flamenco at daylight; every Sunday, at Paseo del Parque, at noon. A band plays “verdiales” that, together with “malagueñas” are the sweet side of flamenco in this land. There is more to taste it little by little and the traveller will find it without searching.

GASTRONOMY

Cuisine from Malaga is a very simple one that brings to the table fruits of the sea, the land and the mountain. Its receipts have been created by population during centuries of adaptation to weather, extremely hot, in certain areas. **Salads** are abundant but the most typical of summer is **Gazpacho**.

In Malaga there are several varieties, the local seems to be “**Ajoblanco**” with almonds, and, as everybody knows, without tomato, as popular as “**Salmorejo**” in its original version from Cordoba or in Antequera's version, called “**Porra**” that has the base of bread white and the company of ham dices.

Fried fish are here subject of devotion. Tourist will have the opportunity to try them in *tapas* or as main dish or entry, by the sea in sardine “*espetones*” stuck in the fires of the boats. **Red Mullet**s, **Anchovies** “**Victorianos**”, **Clams** and those typical from the area are some of the Mediterranean delicatessen you should taste.

Meat and game are also popular. Meat lovers shall taste **Kid “al Ajillo”** frequently served with almonds and also **Goatling with**

Vegetables. All this with the company of **Red Wines**, **Manzanillas**, **Sweet Wines**, **White Wines** and **Dry Wines** from the region.

As dessert, the eater shall go from something which main ingredient is **Orange** or **Malaga Syrup**. There is also an excellent **Quince Jam**.

THE SECRET RECIPE

■ CALAMARI “PREÑA”

Ingredients: 2 Kg. calamari, 2 medium size onions, 2 boiled eggs, Serrano ham, figs, a bunch of almonds, wine, oil and salt.

In this recipe of stuffed calamari the main thing is choosing big ones in order to be able to stuff them. Once they are clean of ink and membranes, separate the body of the animal and chop the legs in small parts. Then fry them. With some oil we will fry the onions. Once it is golden, take it to a bowl together with the boiled eggs mixing them with the rest of the ingredients of the “preña”, this is: the ham, the almonds and one of the two fried onions. When this is well mixed, we stuff the calamari that you will close with the help of a toothpick.

In a pan with some oil we fry the stuffed calamari until golden. When they get this colour, add the other onion and the figs, then pour some wine and let it reduce.




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