

SEVILLE



Jésus Morillo and Natalia Arce give the musical low-down on Andalucía's stylish capital city

In March 2006, Seville was appointed the first ever UNESCO City of Music in recognition of its fertile musical tradition as a centre of creativity and musical activity whose influences are appreciated around the world. The UNESCO accolade emphasises Seville's contribution to classical music through composers such as Joaquín Turina and the contemporary Manuel Castillo, but the award also stresses Seville's role in the development of Spain's most celebrated popular music – flamenco – with artists as influential as Manolo Caracol and Niña de los Peines. The city's musical creativity

and vitality continue to flourish today and Seville is home to artists like Kiko Veneno, who was a pioneer of flamenco fusion, together with the Amador brothers Rafael and Raimundo who founded the group Pata Negra, creating an exciting hybrid of flamenco and blues. But these are just a couple of names among the myriad of artists who find Seville the perfect place to explore different musical styles, from the traditional to the more unorthodox. Besides flamenco, the city has numerous festivals, theatres and music venues which offer a steady and diverse musical programming (see listings below).

A typical flamenco bar in Seville. Right: The main square and cathedral



FLAMENCO

Flamenco represents Andalucía's most idiosyncratic musical expression and, as such, occupies a privileged position in the regional capital's music scene. **Jueves Flamencos** is a season of events organised since 1998 by El Monte Foundation, bringing together renowned flamenco artists such as Manolo Sanlúcar, Tomatito and Miguel Poveda among many others. The season offers around 20 concerts between October and May in the Sala Joaquín Turina.

Calle Laraña, 4, www.fundelmonte.es

Teatro Central provides excellent programming with *Flamenco Viene del Sur*, a series of ten shows which take place between the months of January and April, combining well-established artists such as Gerardo Núñez with up-and-coming figures like Pitingo. The same theatre also organises *Jazz Viene del Sur* in March.

José de Gálvez, 6, www.teatrocentral.com

Casa de la Memoria de Al-Andalus

stands out among the tourist-oriented flamenco offerings with daily shows performed by a flamenco ensemble in a 16th century Sevillian courtyard. Reservations are recommended.

Calle Ximénez de Enciso, 28, +34 954 560 670

A more authentic experience can be found in **Peña Torres Macarena**, an association for the promotion of flamenco which organises acoustic performances between October and May.

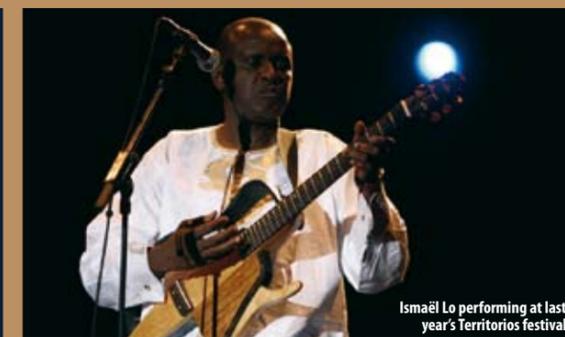
Calle Torrijano, 29, +34 954 372 384

The most important flamenco event in the city is **Bienal de Flamenco** which lasts for one month between September and October. It's Spain's most important flamenco festival and is often chosen by the big stars to present their premières – including prestigious performers such as Paco de Lucía, Enrique Morente and Joaquín Cortés. The event is often preceded by young artists' performances during the summer, with exhibitions and flamenco courses organised throughout the event. **Varios venues, www.bienal-flamenco.org** An unmissable option for those interested in acquiring a deeper grasp of flamenco is the **Fundación Cristina Heeren**, which offers an excellent course programme including singing, guitar playing and dancing from introductory to advanced levels taught by renowned flamenco artists like José de la Tomasa, Niño de Pura and Milagros Menjibar to mention just a few.

Av de Jerez, 2, +34 954 217 058, www.flamencoheeren.com

The **Museo del Baile Flamenco**, presided over by the famous dancer, Cristina Hoyos, also offers different courses. The museum hosts permanent and touring exhibitions, as well as conferences with the aim of providing a better understanding of Andalucía's musical expression.

Calle Manuel Rojas Marcos, 3, +34 954 340 311, www.museoflamenco.com



Ismaél Lo performing at last year's Territorios festival

FESTIVALS

Several festivals have sprung up over the last few years bringing music from around the world.

Territorios Sevilla

This is the most important festival devoted to world music in southern Spain. Created in 1998, it attracts international artists and groups such as Philip Glass, Foday Musa Suso, Goran Bregović, La Vieja Trova Santiaguera and Lee 'Scratch' Perry. The festival's combination of traditional and new music has resulted in an eclectic mix of rock, hip-hop and electronic music represented by US rockers Tortoise, the Palestinian rappers Dam and techno producer Carl Craig. It takes place over two weekends in May in the beautiful 16th century Monasterio de la Cartuja and there are plenty of interesting activities organised around the event.

Monasterio de la Cartuja, www.territoriossevilla.com

Festival Palabra y Música

This is the only festival devoted to spoken word performances in Spain. Now three years old, it has welcomed artists such as Blixa Bargeld, Lydia Lunch, Julian Cope and the writer Nick Hornby. It takes place at the beginning of March.

Teatro Lope de Vega, www.palabraymusica.org

Festival Iberoamericano Sevilla Entre Culturas

This festival, organised between the end of December and the beginning of January, combines high-brow and popular music. It is specially worth mentioning the 'Diálogos' performances where Spanish musicians share the stage with Latin American artists like Omara Portuondo, Martirio, Chucho Valdés and Jorge Drexler.

www.sevilla.org

Noches en los Jardines del Alcázar

A series of concerts which happen between July and September in the astounding gardens of this tenth century Arabic building. It combines popular and classical music with a special emphasis on Mediterranean and North African rhythms.

www.actidea.com/nochesalcazar2007

GOING TRAVELLING?

Songlines has now profiled the world music scene in over 30 cities. Check the archive on www.songlines.co.uk

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LISTINGS

El Giralillo

The most comprehensive guide to what's going on in Seville from music and gigs to restaurants and exhibitions. Distributed for free in tourist offices, museums and other venues every month. The internet version of the magazine is updated every week. **www.elgiralillo.es**

ABC 360

ABC newspaper's weekly supplement is out on Fridays, offering a summary of the latest cultural events in the city, including concerts, interviews and musical reviews. **www.abc.es**

CLUBS & BARS

Sala Fun Club

One of the oldest music venues in the city devoted mainly to rock, although it also offers occasional hip-hop, DJ sessions and other music. A great place for a long night. **Alameda de Hércules, 86, www.salafunclub.com**

Sala Malandar

A place to listen to local bands and soloists playing all kinds of music. **Calle Torneo, 43, www.malandar.net**

Bauhaus

A curious venue which combines creative cuisine with electronic, lounge music, turning into house music from midnight. **Calle Marqués de Paradás, 53**

La Carbonería

A classic joint where locals meet foreigners in an ex-coal warehouse located in the old city quarter. It has a beautiful wide patio full of plants, with live music performances including flamenco, jazz and Mediterranean music. **Calle Levías, 18**

Naima Café Jazz

The perfect place to sip a coffee or something on the rocks while listening to classical or contemporary jazz. **Calle Trajano, 47, www.naimacafejazz.com**

La Caja Negra

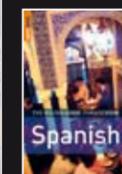
Located in one of the most vibrant going-out districts in Seville – Alameda de Hércules – this cosy venue offers a varied roster of DJs and jam sessions every Sunday in a very friendly atmosphere. It also hosts some of the Territorios festival (see above right) late-night gigs. **Calle Fresca, 15**



The sleek interior of Sala Malandar

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