

# **Spain**

## **Climate and clothing**

Madrid in August can be very hot and dry, and evenings cool from June to September.

## **Food and drink**

Food: Sopa Castellana (baked garlic soup), Callos a la Madrilenas (stewed tripe with a spicy dark sauce), Besugo al Horno (sea – bream poached in a wine sauce), Cochinillo Asado (roasted sucking pig), Cordero Asado (roast lamb). Many of the specialties of Spanish cuisine are based on seafood – eels, bream and squid. The area of Andalusia is noted for its cooking, especially featuring Gazpacho, a delicious cold vegetable soup.

Drink: Wines (especially Rioja – pronounced “Ree-o-hah”) and Sherries.

## **Manners and customs**

The custom of Siesta is gradually disappearing and department stores now stay open through the traditional three – hour siesta. Other shops do close from 14.00 – 17.00. Spain is also famous for its spectacular flamenco dancing.

## **Public facilities**

There are many expressions for toilet in Spanish; ‘Aseos’, ‘Servicios’, ‘WC’, ‘Water’ and ‘Retretes’. The first two terms are the more common. In public conveniences, attendants expect a few cents fee.

## **Shopping hours**

09.00 – 11.00 and 17.00 – 20.00 Monday to Saturday.

## **Best buys**

Sherry, lace, ceramics, leather goods, jewels, Lladro figurines, Damascene jewels and Majorcan pearls.

## **Water**

We suggest that, like most Spaniards, you drink bottled mineral water which is widely available as the tap water tastes chemically.