

Getaway WITH ME

Anabella Giles has fallen in love with the city of Seville and explains what makes it the perfect mini-moon destination.



We were greeted warmly on arrival and given a lot of personal attention. Our room was spacious and well equipped, while the bed felt as though I was sleeping on a cloud. Both of us enjoyed a wonderful night's sleep, even with the other half snoring for most of it.

The breakfast was excellent, a high quality selection of fresh juice, warm bread and delicious pastries plus fruit, which we tucked straight into.

We also loved the rooftop terrace with plunge pool where one can relax with a glass of wine and enjoy the spectacular views.

You can get to the hotel by car but I wouldn't recommend it. On the advice of the hotel we took a taxi and I honestly do not know how they manage to get their cars through the incredibly narrow streets. I would have given up after about five minutes and left my car in the middle of it all.

The hotel is definitely worthy of all of its accolades, especially the charming staff who make each guest feel special.

www.corraldelrey.com



WHAT TO DO

Seville is steeped in history. The marriage of multiple religions is evident throughout the area: the Moorish heritage, the cathedral and the Alcazar to name but three, there is so much to see and do. Our first stop was the cathedral of course. One of the largest and most impressive churches in the world, it was built in the 15th century at the site of a 12th century mosque. Today, the only part of this structure which remains is the minaret, also known as the Giralda, due to the weather vane added to the top in the 16th century. Several stages of building can be seen, with examples of the Mudéjar, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Neo-classical styles.



Next we visited **Plaza de España Square**, which is a majestic architectural complex built as the central office for the Ibero-American Exposition, a world fair held in Seville in 1929. Painted ceramic benches in Square are arranged round the square.

We thoroughly enjoyed the Museum of Flamenco and highly recommend staying for the hour-long flamenco show.



WHERE TO EAT

Located in the magnificent colonnaded Andalusian-style courtyard of the five-star Hotel Alfonso XIII, **Restaurante San Fernando** provides a unique culinary experience in the heart of Seville. San Fernando is a tribute to the city's patron saint, Saint Ferdinand, formally King

Ferdinand III of Castile. Lunch and dinner are both elegant affairs with a full à la carte menu featuring modern interpretations of Spanish classics, married with an extensive wine list. You must try the Iberian Pork Cheek in Oloroso with Ajo Colorado and finish off with the fine Apple Tart.



WHERE TO STAY

Corral del Rey is tucked away in one of the narrow streets of the old quarter of Barrio Alfalfa, a five minute walk from the Cathedral. The original 17th Century Casa Palacio has been meticulously restored and converted into a small private luxury boutique hotel, offering chic accommodation with a vibrant bar. The hotel, spread over three old buildings, is beautifully maintained. The architectural highlights are the atrium patio, Roman marble columns and the original wooden carved beams. Lots of glass used throughout the hotel brings it alive with light. The luxurious marble and limestone bathrooms with walk-in rain showers were out of this world.

