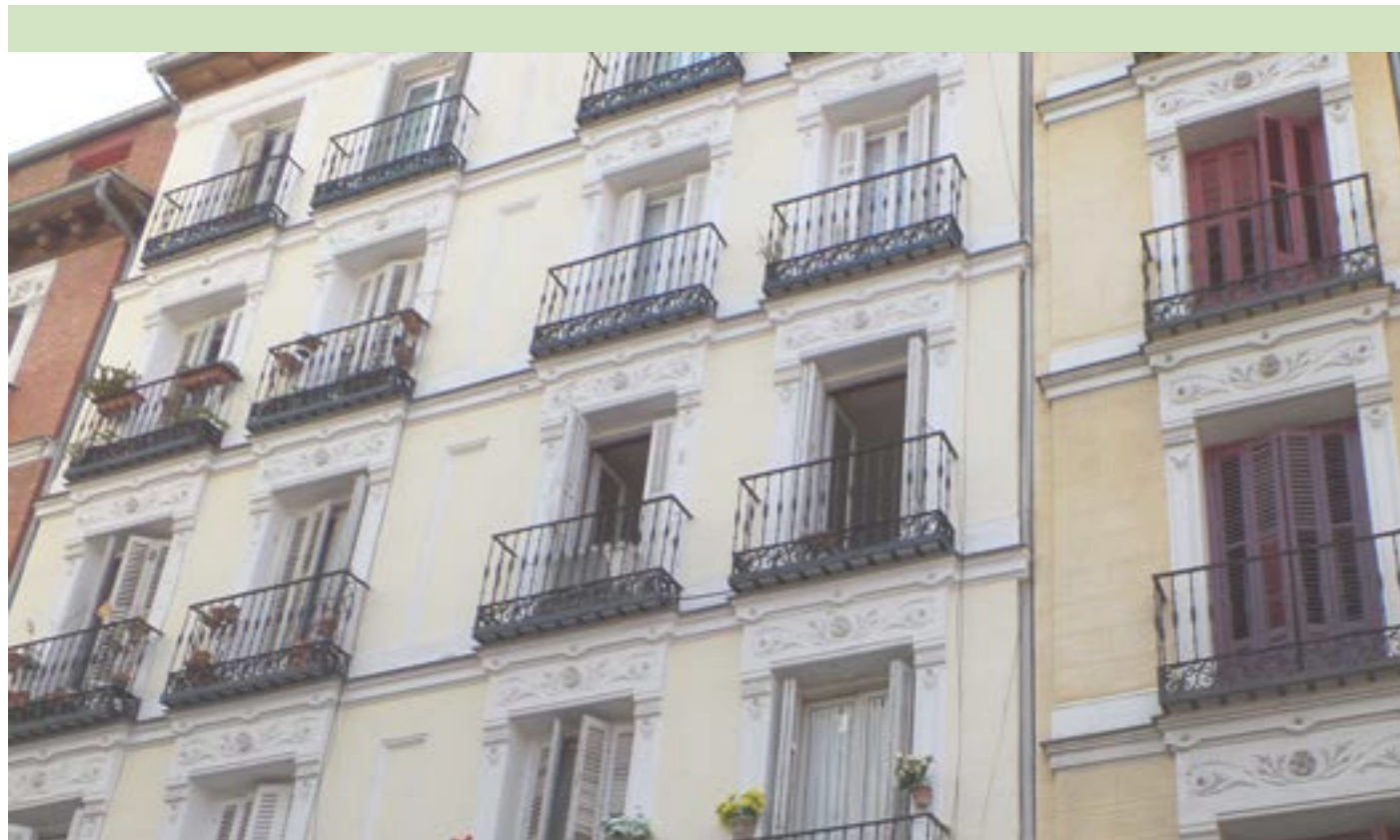


PÁSE LO BIEN EN MADRID





Let's Begin.

Initially named 'Mayrit' (or Margerit) by Emir Mohammed of Cordoba in the year 854, Madrid was chosen by King Felipe II as the capital of Spain in 1561, which was previously Toledo. Although now a leading European city it began relatively small in scale; with only a few notable medieval churches, such as St Jerome and the Bishops Chapel still standing. These structures were dotted around an area primarily populated by white-washed housing and minimal decor. This started to change in the 17th century with escalated efforts to expand and compete on a European stage. King Carlos III who began his reign in 1759 created many of Madrid's most iconic structures such as the Palacio Real Madrid (Royal Palace of Madrid) and thus aided in creating the Madrid of today; one that is encapsulating. The first half of the 20th Century saw Spain fall under the dictatorship of Francisco Franco who controlled Spain from 1939 to his death in 1975. Through acts, such as sending aid to the German front during the Second World War, Spain was isolated economically for a period of time after the war ended. As Franco aged, censorship began to relax and people began to protest widely in rebuke of this dictator's political stance. Protests and demonstrations equally became an important factor of the Spanish financial crisis of 2008. The protests, collectively known as the 15M movement or the Spanish Revolution, was a globally publicised event in which the popular district of Puerta del Sol became the home of thousands of protesters in 2011; a feat mimicked across the country. People of all walks of life joined together to take a stand against the rising unemployment rate- which as of January 2014 is estimated to be 26% - as well as other issues ranging from homelessness to welfare. With places such as the Tabacalera, Madrid houses many places that aid in the free practice of arts and allow those who are unemployed or without a home to find comfort within it. The rich and continuous history of Madrid is palpable simply by walking down a street, or visiting a park or museum; thus ensuring that it is a vital and exhilarating member of Europe.

Restaurants



Tragatapas
La Taurina
Restaurante Botin

Tapas

El Tigre
Mercado de San Miguel



Bars

Kapital
Sandemans Bar Crawl
El 13 Triball
Palentino
Terral
La Azotea del Circulo de Bellas Artes
Salsa



Public Transport in Madrid.



Madrid has an efficient public transport system that is easy to use and understand. The Metro and bus system are integrated so you can buy a ticket (available at stations, news-stands or tobacconists) to use on both.

You can get singles (€1.50 for a five station trip, €2.00 for zone A), ten trip tickets (10 *viajes*, €12.20) or unlimited travel passes for 1 day (€8), 2 days (€13.40), 3 days (€17.40), 5 days (€25.50), or 7 days (€33.40). Ticket machines are in multiple

languages, including English. Traveling to or from airport stations requires an additional charge of €3 payable at the entrance or exit.

The Metro is open from 6am to 1:30am. Metro lines do not split like those on the London Underground, so you simply have to know in which direction you need to travel.

If you will be in Madrid for a long time, you can get a public transit card (*Tarjeta Transporte Público*).

You can fill out an ap-

plication at a station – make sure to bring your passport with you. You can then load your travel plans onto the card.

They also remove the additional charge when traveling to/from airport stations.

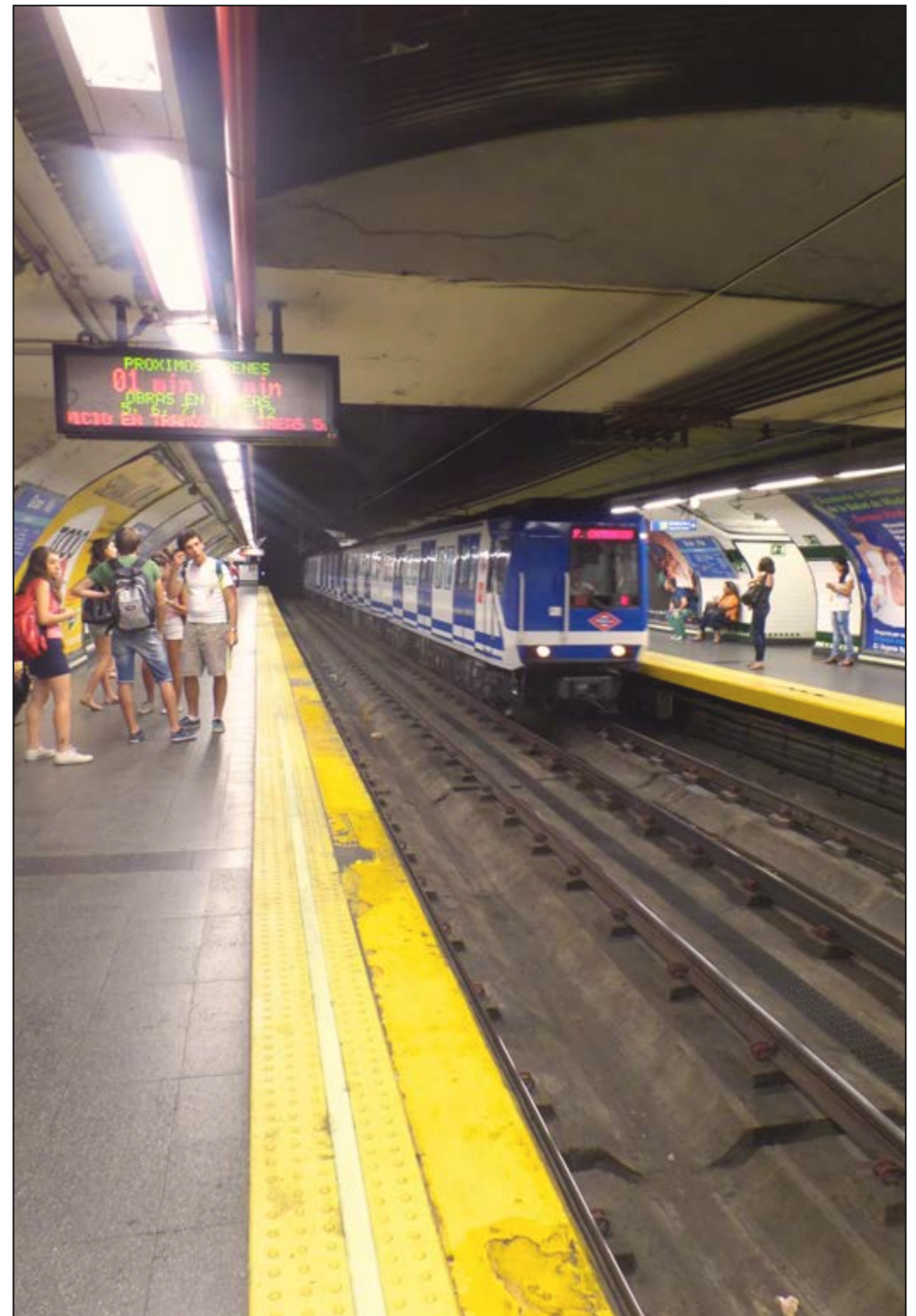
The buses cover whatever areas the Metro doesn't and a night bus (*Búhos* or "night owls") runs from 1am to 5:30am, traveling on the same routes as the Metro. Their main hub is at *Plaza de Cibeles*.

The trains and buses are quite spacious and the trains are also air-con-

ditioned. Buskers come into the carriage every now and then and they are quite good.

Beggars also frequent the metro and it is difficult to tell if they are opportunists or in genuine need of help. Donate if you wish.

For information and advice check out the Madrid Metro website (<http://www.metromadrid.es/en/>) or public transport information website (<http://www.ctm-madrid.es/>). The customer service number is 902 444 403 or 917 796 399.



KAPITAL.



Well known for being one of Europe's liveliest cities, Madrid truly comes alive when the sun descends. *La noche madrileña* is infamous for its vibrant buzz of activity and plays host to

a multitude of thriving bars, pubs, terraces and clubs. One of the most popular clubs in Madrid, Kapital offers the clubbing crowd seven different floors, with a unique style of music to be enjoyed

on each. For those who enjoy house and dance music, stay on the first floor to be wowed by an amazing light show and the refreshing blasts from the ice machine. Hip-hop and RnB fans can

head up to the beats from The Box on the third floor, while those who enjoy a bit of a sing along should track down The Party Zone for greatest hits and revival tunes.

Luckily for tired feet, Kapital also offers a chill out area on the seventh floor, a spacious lounge bar that doubles up as a smoking area.

Although fairly pricey, there are usually plenty of punters in the Plaza del Sol that can offer you great group deals including one or two free drinks once inside.

Perfect for dancing until the small hours, Kapital truly offers something for everyone and provides an ideal opportunity to enjoy a wild Madrileñan night out.

General information

Address: Calle de Atocha, 125, 28012 Madrid

Nearest metro station: Atocha

Phone: +34 914 20 29 06

Web: www.grupo-kapital.com

Opening hours:
Thurs-Sat 12:00-6:00am



Bar Crawl.



For those new to Madrid and its after-dark activities, a good way to dip your toe in the Madrileñan night-life is by participating in a bar crawl. One of the most renowned is run by the New Europe Madrid company, which takes place from sundown to sunrise every single day of the week! It's a great way to meet like-minded

people and also to get to know a few of the barrios of Madrid better, as the crawl takes you to three different bars, finally finishing up in one of Madrid's hottest clubs to end the night. The route of the crawl varies depending on the day of the week to mix it up and keep things fresh. The company also offers participants great group

discounts and can cost as little as €9 a head, which is brilliant value considering the usually pricey drinks and expensive club entry fees in Madrid. Participants are then offered free drinks in each of the bars – handy for those who might be a little short on cash. The New Europe Madrid company stresses that the aim of the bar

crawl is not to get drunk; but to give people a true taste of Madrid's night life, so safety is always prioritised. The guides are friendly, patient and are excellent English speakers if your Spanish is a bit so-so. Get involved.



General Information

Start Point:
Plaza Mayor Start Point 10:00 PM
Meet in front of the Tourist Information

Running late?
Meet at Commo Bar at 11pm
Website:
<http://www.newmadrid-tours.com/daily-tours/new-madrid-pub-crawl.html>

El 13 Triball.



In Malasaña at the centre of three metro stations (Chueca, Noviciado and Tribunal) lies El 13 Triball: a small bar known for its graffiti collection.

With an eclectic mix of furniture ranging from a green velvet sofa to wooden garden furniture, the bar, although dark, feels cosy and homely. Each wall is adorned with street art: some are hung in ornate frames whilst others are pasted and drawn straight

onto the walls. Many of these pieces are copies of Banksy's most famous works- the back wall for example is partially covered by a large pensive gorilla asking: 'En que piensan los gobernantes?' - 'What do the governors think?'. In Spain's current social climate

these politically motivated artworks are relevant and aimed at its young clients. At €3 for a large tinto de verano and €4.50 for a beer there are certainly more expensive places in Madrid and few of them will be as individual as this bar. Although old, it is not

typically Spanish as neither the artwork displayed nor the manager himself are from Spain. However if you'd like a cold drink, good service, and some free nuts, the green velvet sofa at the back is waiting for you.

General Information

Address: Calle del Barco
41 28004 Madrid

Nearest Metro Station:
Tribunal

Phone: 915 21 54 44

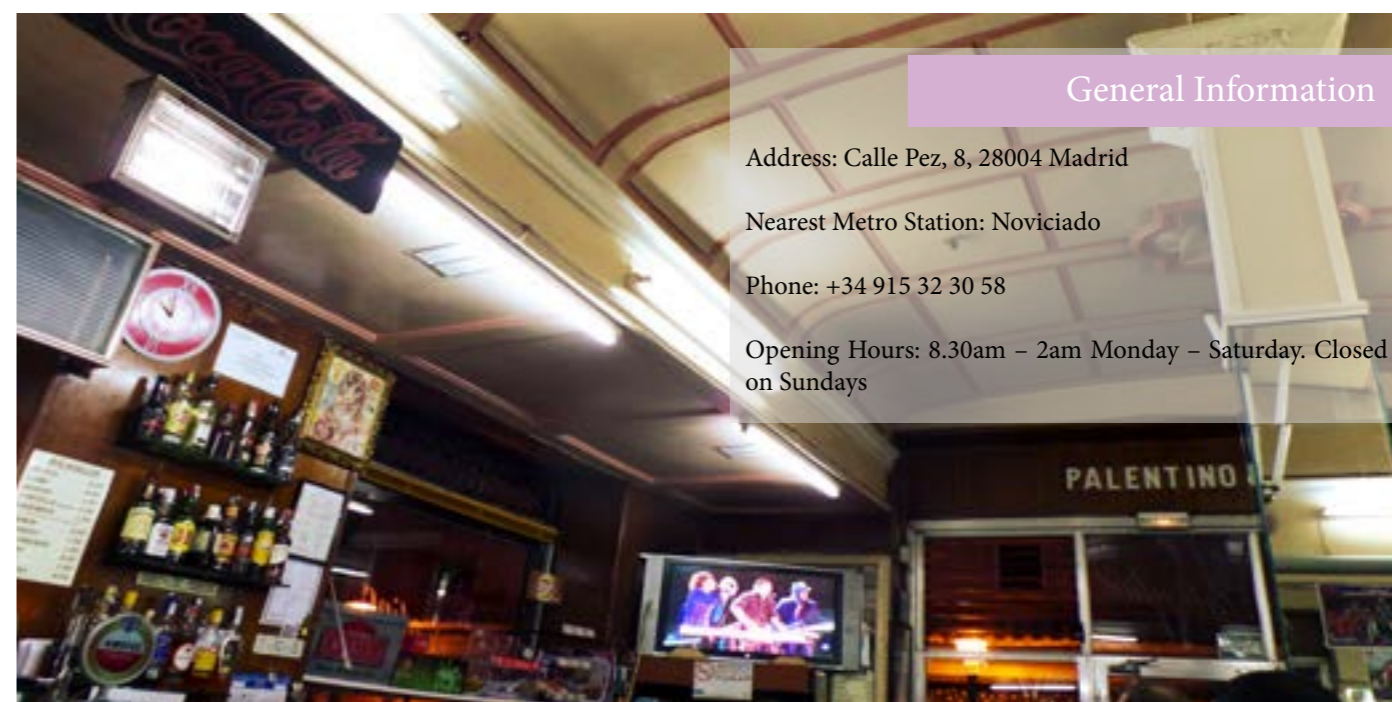
Website:
<http://www.el13triball.com>

Opening hours: 19:00 - 2:00

Palentino.



Situated within easy walking distance from the Metro's Noviciado station, 'Palentino' gives you a true taste of Spain that the Spaniards know (and love!) The exterior and décor of the bar is how the Spanish might say, *soso* (lacking in sparkle) but the vibe is anything but. The famous Manu Chao chose to record one of his songs here and it's easy to see why - with shouts of 'Salud! Buenos noches' welcoming you into the all-inclusive, buzzing atmosphere, this classic bar has become the meeting point for over a generation of youths. Offering the perfect glass of tinto de verano (the so-called red wine of summer) and some mini-tapas at just €1.60, the prices are just as friendly as the staff. Whether you want to sample cured Spanish meats such as chorizo, ham (jamon) and salchichon in traditional bocadillos (a bargain at only a couple of euros each), or simply grab a few local beers with friends, 'Palentino' is a great place to start.



General Information

Address: Calle Pez, 8, 28004 Madrid

Nearest Metro Station: Noviciado

Phone: +34 915 32 30 58

Opening Hours: 8.30am - 2am Monday - Saturday. Closed on Sundays

La Azotea del Círculo de Bellas Artes.

For a panoramic view of Madrid in cool, contemporary surroundings, visiting Azotea (which translates as 'roof terrace') on top of the Círculo de Bellas Artes is a must.

For only €3 take a lift to the top floor of this fine arts institution; this reveals a rooftop heaven complete with breathtaking vistas, as well as fantastic photo opportunities of the Paseo del Arte barrio, with views of the grand Banco de España (Bank of Spain), or the extravagant Plaza Cibeles. With an array of tables and chairs, sun loungers and grassy retreats, this is a hub of relaxation. Gone are the metropolitan sounds of traffic and city life. Instead you can enjoy the best of what Madrid has to offer with the terrace's feel-good music playlist,



creating a unique space to take time out of your schedule and unwind in the best way possible. A bar is also available on site to provide refreshing drinks while you relax and soak up the madrileño scenery. Mixers and certain beers are more expensive, but cold soft drinks are available for a reasonable €3, and a tantalising

tinto de verano for €4. With an easygoing and relaxed pace during the day, and an ambience of sophistication and romance during the night, the visual experience is unforgettable every time. One of Madrid's best azoteas for its divine décor and simply unmissable cityscape views.

General Information

Address: Calle de Alcalá, 42, 28014 Madrid, Spain

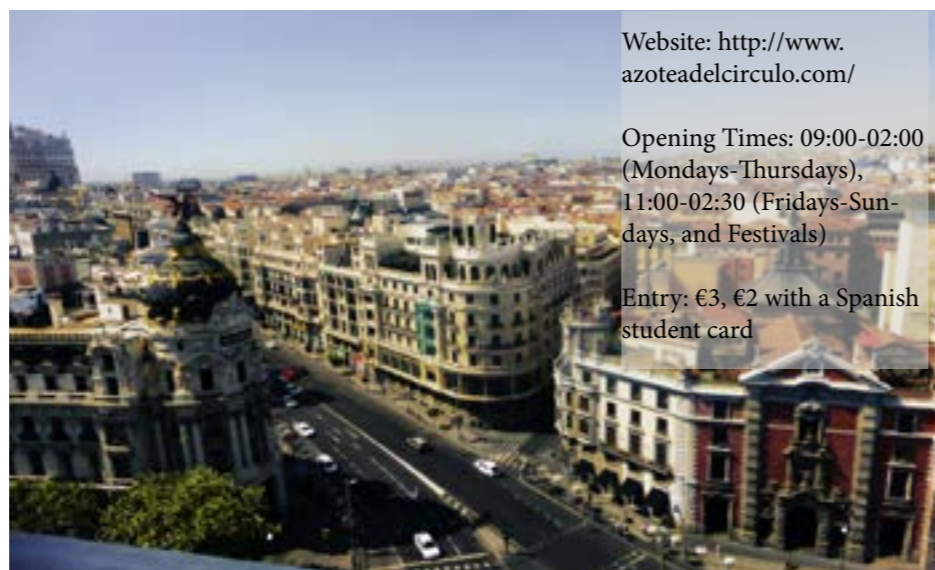
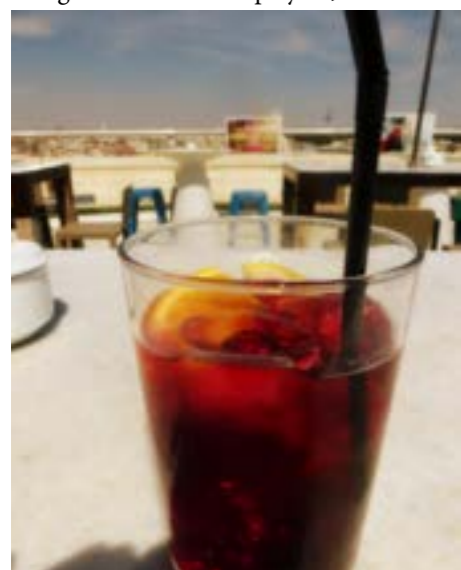
Nearest Metro Station: Banco de España

Phone: (+34) 91 389 25 00

Website: <http://www.azoteadelcirculo.com/>

Opening Times: 09:00-02:00 (Mondays-Thursdays), 11:00-02:30 (Fridays-Sundays, and Festivals)

Entry: €3, €2 with a Spanish student card



Terral.

Lavapies is home to many unique and interesting bars and cafes, Terral being just one to recommend.



The bar is found opposite the Cine Dore a beautiful vintage cinema built in 1920s art nouveau architectural style. Film festivals are regularly held at the cinema and they also show old movies (in English) which change monthly, for only €2,50.

Be sure to book your tickets in advance as they are known to sell out! The drinks menu at Terral varies from coffees and teas to cocktails – I would recommend trying the refreshing watermelon daiquiri for €6.

The food is generous in size and again there is a wide range to choose from, as you are faced with a tantalising choice of savoury crepes, salads, and burgers, all with individual options to make the meal your own.

The relaxed atmosphere is complemented by jazz music and an array of comfy seating with choices of either beanbags or table seating surrounded by funky mirrors and unusual artwork.

General information

Address: Calle de Santa Isabel, 14, 28012 Madrid

Nearest Metro Station: Anton Martin

Opening hours: 9.30am-2am



Be Safe.

Although the vast majority of people you will meet in Madrid will be friendly and there is a strong police presence, you should always take precautions and know about any potential dangers you may face.

Beware of pickpockets in tourist areas such as Puerta del Sol and Gran Via as well as the metro. Some thieves work in groups and attempt to distract you somehow e.g. offering to read your future or sell you rosemary whilst their accomplice picks your pocket. In rare instances thieves will pose as police officers and ask to see your ID – never show them your wallet or passport, use other ID if you must.

Whether you are eating in one of Madrid's delicious restaurants or sipping a tinto de verano at a bar, always keep your bag next to your body- either around your arm or leg or tied to the chair. Thieves, often while you are chatting to a bar tender or your friends, easily slide a bag away from you without a second glance and before you've had a chance to do a thing.

You can also keep a photocopy of your passport at your hotel. If your bag/valuables are snatched you will at least have some form of ID with you. Taking out travel insurance is also an option.

The number for the emergency services is 112 which you can use to request the police, firemen, ambulance or other emergency services. Calling +34 901 102 112 will give you the police services in English. This service is available from 9am – 9pm all week long. You will then be instructed to pick up a copy of your report at the nearest police station.

Call 112 for Emergency Services