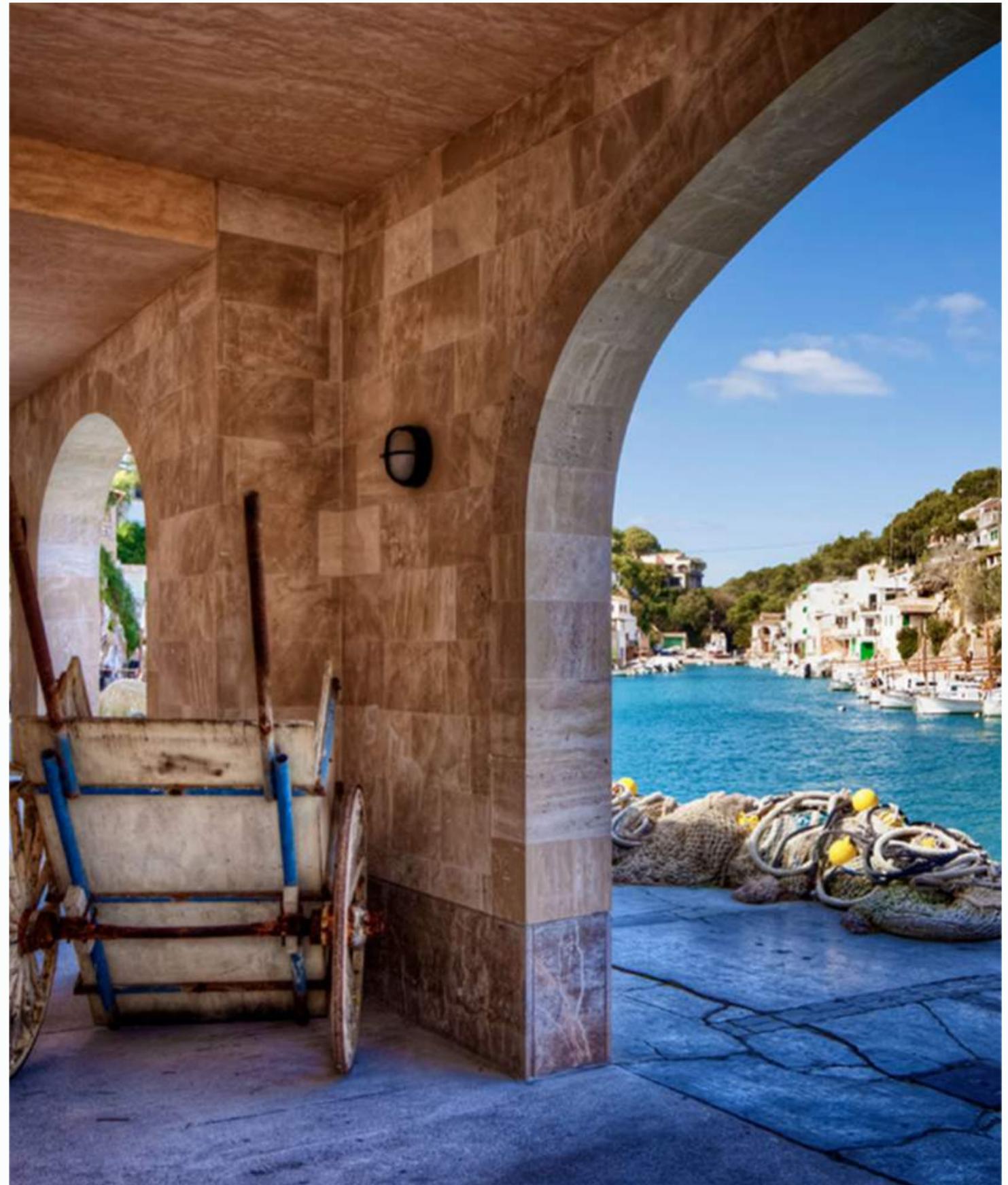




SPAIN COLLECTION

ESPAÑA & PORTUGAL

Discover the rich tapestry of history  
and culture of **Spain & Portugal**





Stunning landscapes  
and incredible histories

iconic sights



and vibrant colors



Centuries-old traditions alongside  
cutting-edge innovation

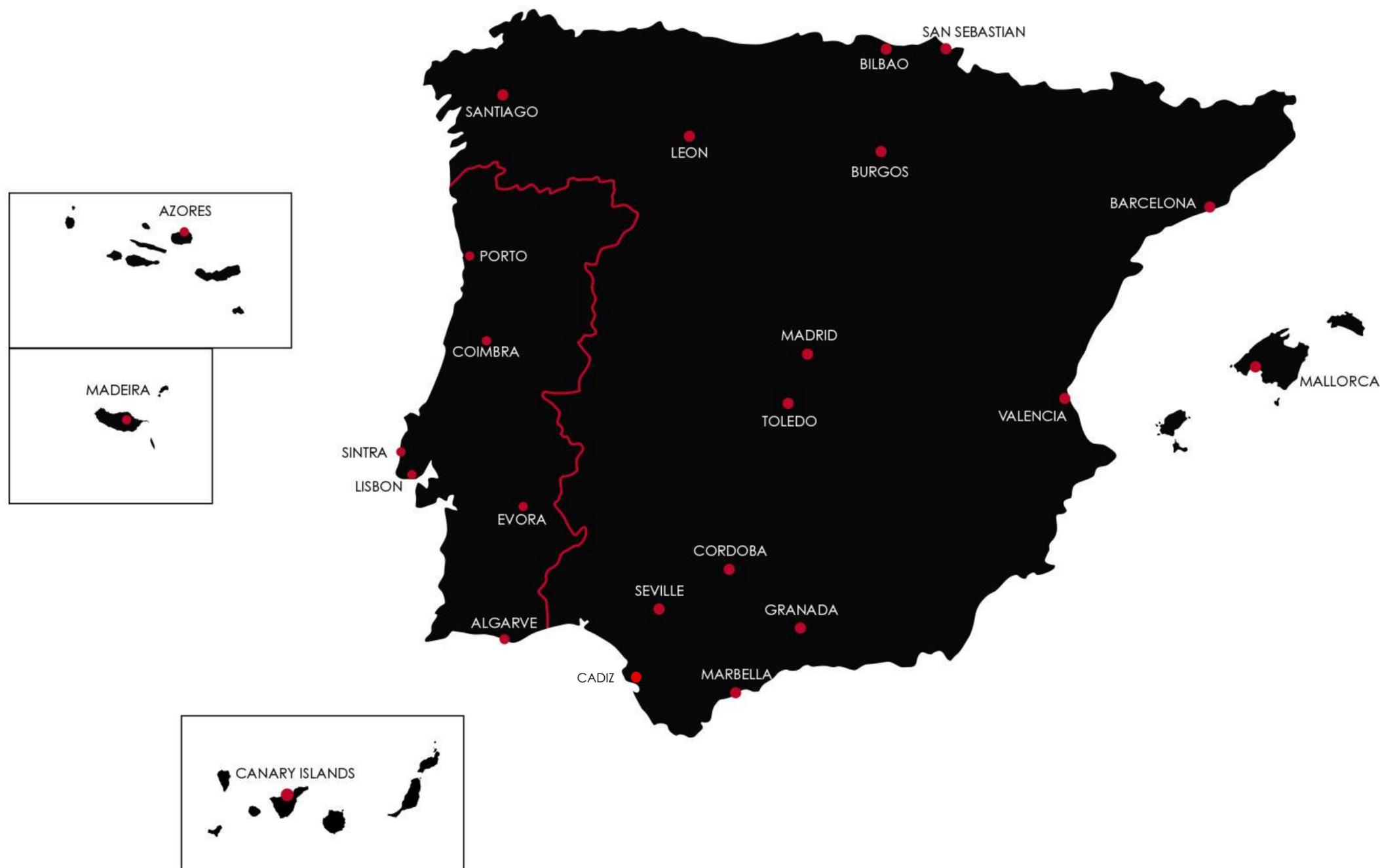


your own unique adventure



# Spain & Portugal

Spain and Portugal share a lot of history by virtue of their geography, and both became world powers during the Age of Discovery, when European colonial powers extended their empires to the edge of the known world. With such opulent heights in their pasts, it's understandable that both nations have a strong historical pride. The people are proud of their heritage and the cities and towns are alive with history and culture. Both have amazing beaches, stunning architecture, delicious Mediterranean cuisine, and fantastic weather.... There are many similarities to discover and differences to experience.



SPAIN

# Madrid

**Madrid, the heart of Spain.** Not only because it is the country's capital and geographic center, but because this is where you **feel the free and contagious spirit of the Spanish.** Its vast history, aristocratic character, cultural diversity and cosmopolitan soul permeate the psyche of the "Madrileños" on the streets and squares in a city that does not sleep. **"From Madrid to heaven"**, or what amounts to the same thing, the best sunsets in the world.

"Madrid, Madrid, Madrid,  
pedazo de la España en que nací  
por algo te hizo Dios la cuna del  
requiebro y del chotis."

**"Madrid" , by Agustín Lara**



# Seville

**Seville is passion, it is art, it is pure emotion.** The capital of Andalusia is the personification of our passionate and open character. Stride across its majestic squares and amble through its secret alleys. Breathe in **the soul of flamenco** and fall under the spell of its fascinating history. Feel the religious fervor and culture and set your heart free as you fall in love with this city!

"El corazón que a Triana va  
Nunca volverá, Sevilla...  
Con que pasión te enamorará  
Y te embrujará, Sevilla..

“Sevilla” , by Miguel Bosé

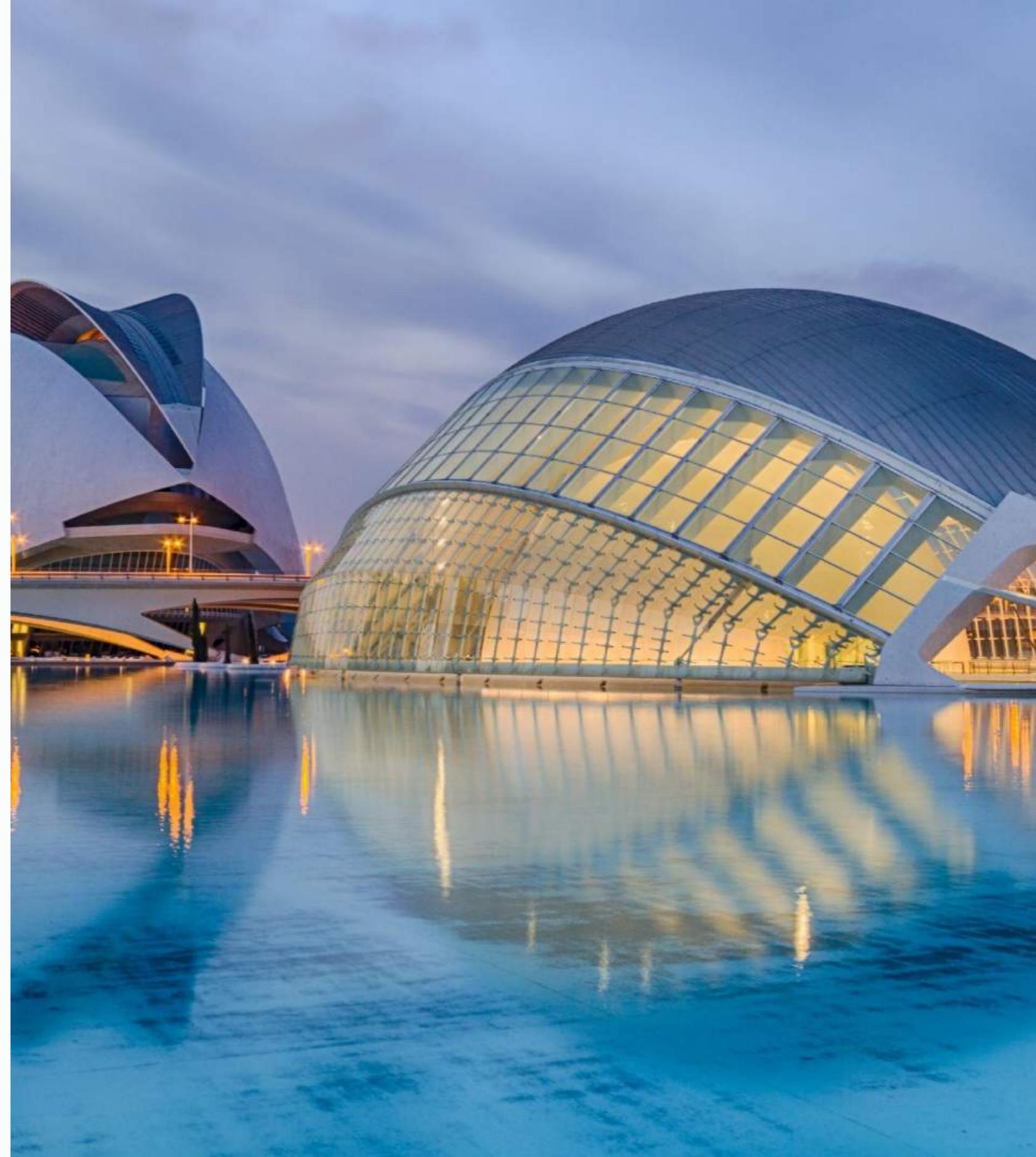


# Valencia

**If you are looking to feel the spirit of the Mediterranean**, you have to visit Valencia. The city is an explosion of color at every turn: the red of its sunsets, the blue of the sea, the violet of its salt flats, the green of its pine forests, the fiery yellow of its **“Fallas” celebrations**, and the orange of its citrus fruits. Valencia combines art, stunning architecture, outstanding Mediterranean cuisine and the adventurous spirit of a sailor.

"A tus atardeceres rojos se acostumbraron mis ojos  
Como el recodo al camino  
Soy cantor, soy embustero. Me gusta el juego y el vino  
Tengo alma de marinero  
¿Qué le voy a hacer si yo nací en el Mediterráneo?"

**“Mediterráneo” , by Joan Manuel Serrat**



# Bilbao

Over the last 20 plus years this industrial city has reinvented itself to become one of the coolest destinations in Spain. Now a **major hub for art, architecture and design**, Bilbao has carved itself a unique profile. What some people might call kamikaze we see as a rejection of conformity.

“Athletic, Athletic, Athletic eup!  
Athletic, gorri ta zuria  
Danontzat zara zu geuria  
Erritik sortu ziñalako  
Maite zaitu erriak”

**Athletic Club anthem**  
(Basque language, “euskera”)

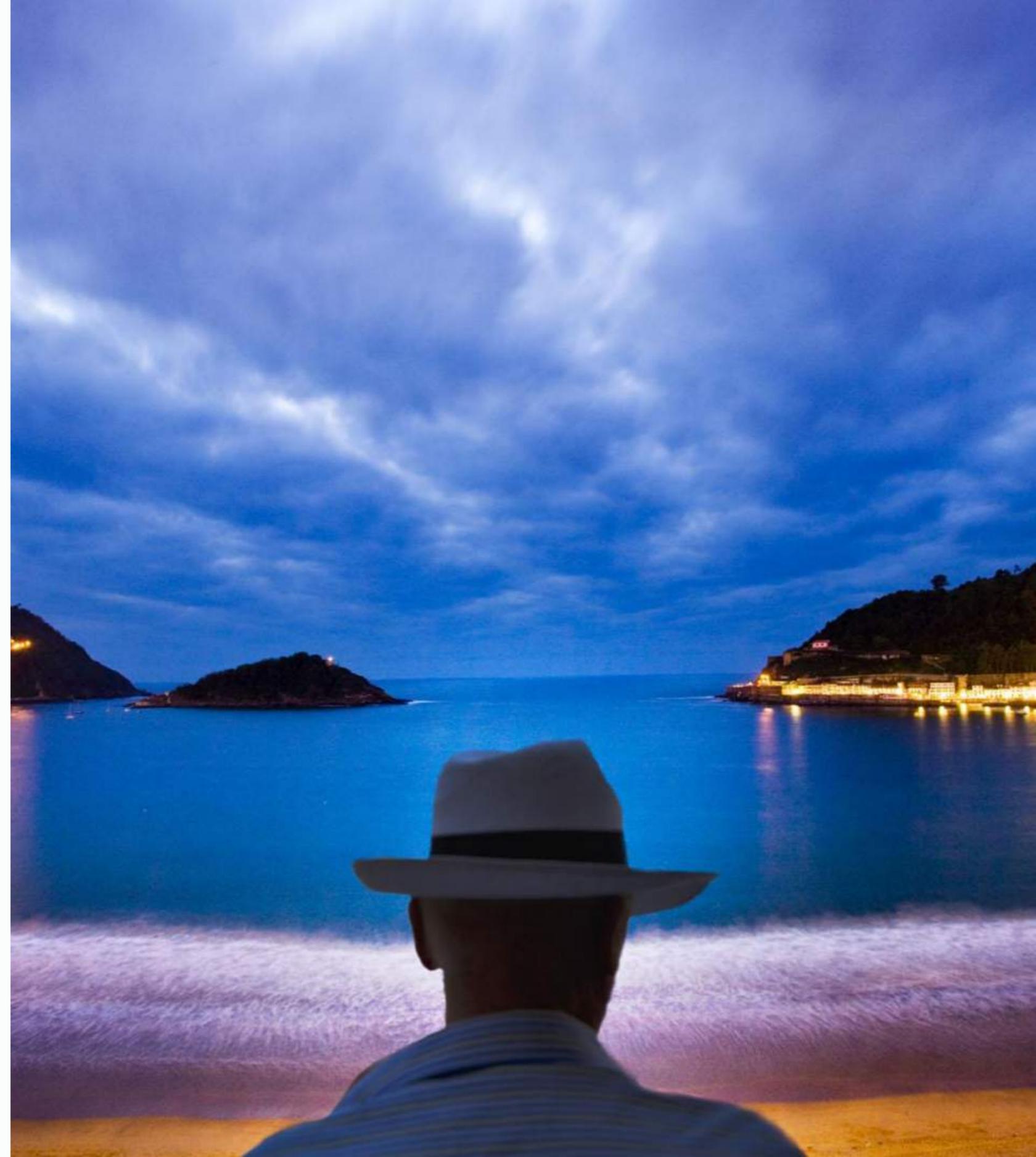


# San Sebastian

**San Sebastián** is one of those places that knows it's got it all: boasting the most Michelin stars per square meter in Europe, the city oozes sophistication from every crook and cranny. Lying on the coast of the Bay of Biscay this coastal gem of a destination is surrounded by green hills and is framed by lovely sandy beaches.

*“Si pudiera volver a nacer  
Te vería cada día amanecer  
Sonriendo como cada vez  
Como aquella vez “*

**”La Playa”, by La Oreja de van Gogh  
Dedicated to La Concha beach**

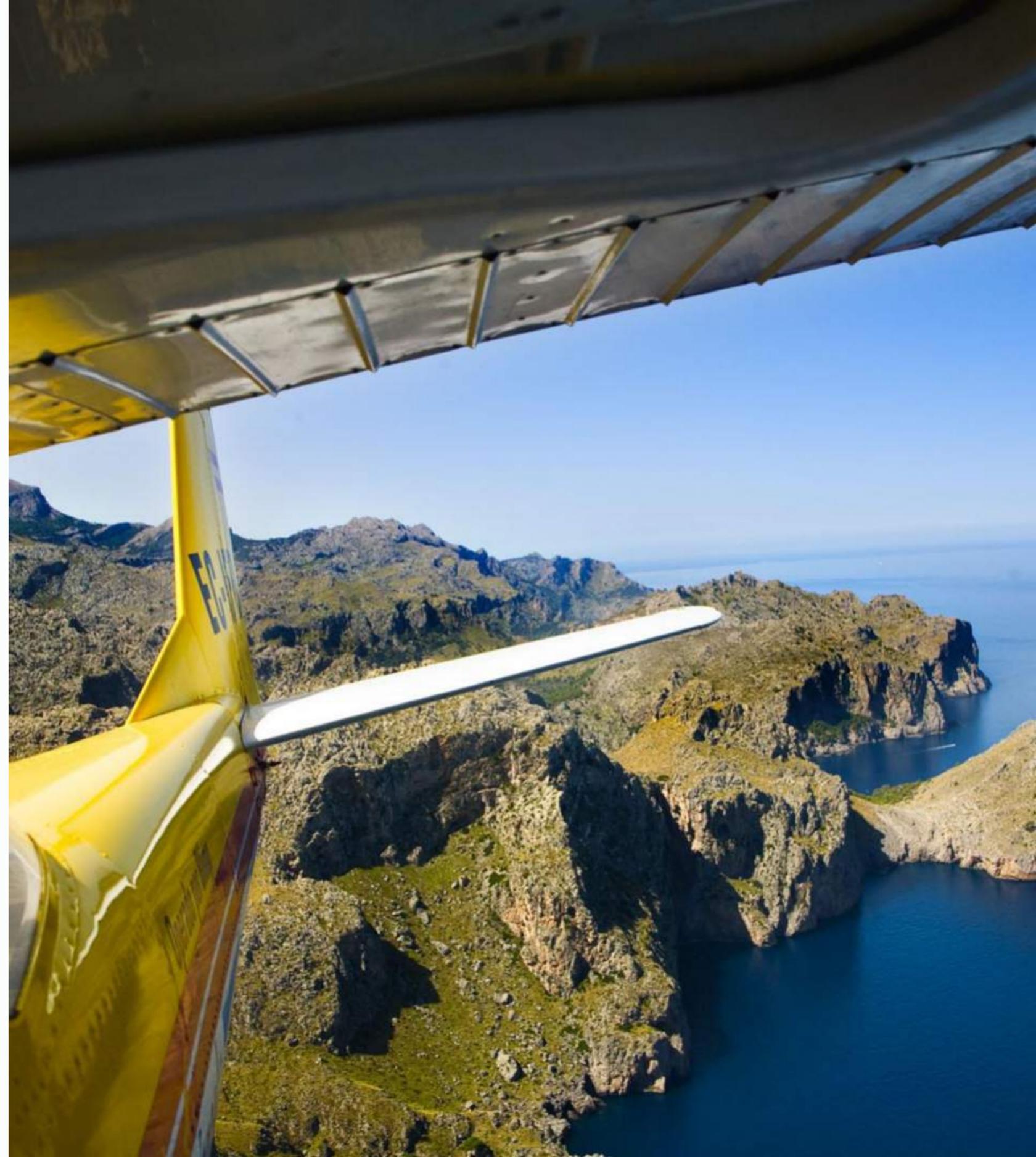


# Mallorca

Mallorca never fails to seduce with its **pure Mediterranean light**, honey-colored stone villages, and picture-perfect coves dotted along its dramatic coastline. You can party **all summer long** or fall under the spell of the silence among the olive, carob and almond groves.

*“Enterradme sin caja de madera,  
que quiero ser isla y Sur cuando me muera.”*

**Fragment from the poem “Isla de Mallorca”, by Fran Póveda**



# Barcelona

This **great Mediterranean metropolis is modernism**, and it is the sea; it is a Phoenician port and it is the 1992 Olympic Games; it is the host city of the World Expo of 1888 and 1929.

It is this layer upon layer of historic and cultural events that make it impossible to define and sum up this city in a few words....

Although perhaps we can settle **upon a name: Gaudi**

“Barcelona, it was the first time that we met  
Barcelona, how can I forget  
The moment that you stepped into the room you took my breath away  
Barcelona, la musica vibró  
Barcelona, y ella nos unió  
And if God willing we will meet again, someday”

“Barcelona”

Performed by Montserrat Caballé and Freddie Mercury for the ‘92  
Olympic Games

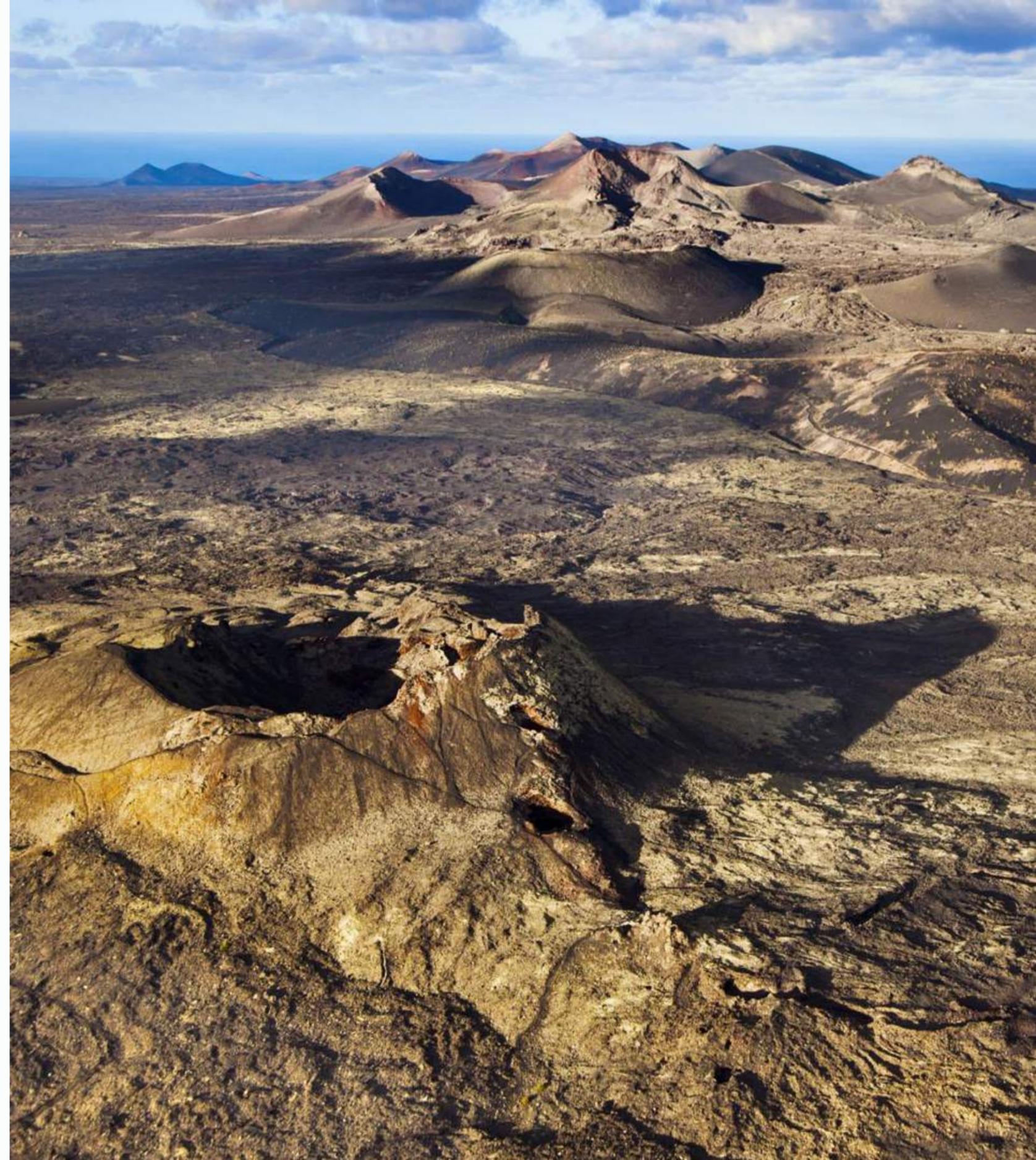


# The Canary Islands

**If Spain is unique, the Canary Islands are even more so.** These seven islands belong to another world: its crystalline waters, **its volcanic landscapes, its exotic gastronomy, its ancient traditions, its spectacular climate...** According to Greek mythology here lies Paradise! A visit to the Canary Islands is allowing yourself to be transported to seventh heaven.

“Vuelvo a encontrar mi azul,  
mi azul y el viento,  
mi resplandor,  
la luz indestructible  
que yo siempre soñé para mi vida.  
Aquí están mis rumores,  
mis músicas dejadas,  
mis palabras primeras merecidas de la espuma,  
mi corazón naciendo antes de sus historias,  
tranquilo mar, mar pura sin abismos.”

**Lanzarote, de Rafael Alberti a Cesar Manrique,  
pastor de vientos y volcanes. 1979**



PORTUGAL



# Lisbon

Lisbon conjures up so many images – hills, lots of hills and impossibly cobbled streets! Thankfully energy levels are easily maintained with wonderful food on offer.

The seafood is fabulous, the meat is plentiful, and then there are the cakes, more specifically the “pasteis de nata”!

Lisbon is packed with history and culture. **One of the oldest cities in Europe, it is now without doubt, one of the most vibrant.** Its recent popularity only seems to have enhanced the warm welcome guaranteed for visitors. The Portuguese are immensely proud of their capital and their country. What are you waiting for?



# Porto

The city of Porto is built up on the hills that line the Douro River which winds through its center and out to the Atlantic Ocean. Its brightly painted buildings are picture-postcard pretty – **the historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage Centre** – and its architecture blends the old and new to stunning effect. The city is bursting with culture and packed with places to eat and drink.

When you think of Porto – the clue being in the name - you think of **Port Wine**. You can't not visit the big old wine cellars that stand across the river from the city! You should also make time to visit the stunning **Douro Valley now equally famous for producing world-class wines.**



“Quatro paredes caiadas  
Um cheirinho à alecrim  
Um cacho de uvas doiradas  
Duas rosas num jardim  
Um São José de azulejo  
Mais o sol da primavera  
Uma promessa de beijos  
Dois braços à minha espera  
É uma casa portuguesa com certeza”

**“Uma Casa Portuguesa”, de Amália Rodrigues**



# THE TEAM



## Abene Mendizabal

Founder and CEO of Spain Collection

### Biography

Five years ago, I was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by my university. I was the first in the 50-year history of the Tourism Faculty, at the University of Bilbao, to be awarded such an honor. I never doubted for one moment my vocation nor that I would continually strive to be amongst the best in my chosen career. In my 22 years of working in the tourism industry I have never doubted that this would be my path.

Spain would always be my home and the world and clients my path. The contacts and relationships developed the years combined with my wish to constantly learn, and the support of a great team allow me to guarantee trips full of unique experiences, absolute comfort and rousing authenticity in Spain and Portugal.

In the United States I strengthened my perseverance, in Germany I learnt about the importance of time, and in London I came to understand the true meaning of cosmopolitan, but my soul and my smile are thanks to Spain, my place of birth.

**Spain Collection** is the product of my values, principles, and a vast knowledge of the tourism industry. It is the next logical step for me, and a career built on experience, commitment, vocation, and an in-depth knowledge of Spain and Portugal.

Creating **Spain Collection** was an intuitive step. But believe me when I say that I do not believe in intuition that is not the result of good solid experience. We are your partner to organize your trip to Spain and Portugal. You have my word .

I am waiting for you here at my home...



SPAIN COLLECTION  
ESPAÑA & PORTUGAL

One of the things I learned about being leader is that some people are only motivated by money, or they are only motivated by power or some kind of incentive. But people also get inspired by stories. Here I share just a few thoughts from my team about Spain Collection...:

- Abene -



Spain Collection is the product of a dream and the determination to give shape to an evolutionary thought, to an idea of progress at a time when everything seems frozen. It is about moving forward and adapting instead of complaining and waiting for the storm to pass.

With this in mind, Abene has brought together **a team of professionals** from the tourism industry, each with **in-depth knowledge of their own particular destination**, and each **with personal and professional “baggage”**, but all of them have one thing in common: a non acceptance of doing what everyone else is doing and a desire to **explore new paths and offer clients new experiences**. **Top quality experiences, full of passion and designed from a unique perspective.**

- Carlos de La Torre -  
[carlos@spaincollection.com](mailto:carlos@spaincollection.com)



Our curator recommends...

## BACKSTAGE AT THE OPERA HOUSE

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The “Teatro Real”, Madrid’s Opera House, is located right in the heart of the city, opposite site of the Royal Palace. Its fantastic location is logistically challenging given the huge productions it puts on. This is where it gets interesting! The Opera House is like iceberg – what we see at street level is just a fraction of the venue’s space. Production and storage facilities are housed over 8 floors directly under the “Teatro”.

Here you find everything you need for a production: storage for stage structures, hair and make-up, costume repair ateliers, relaxation areas for the artistes, scenery and prop workshops and a long etc.

Feel the spirit of this Opera House, listed as part of Spain's Historical Heritage, and visit “backstage” immediately after a performance when these underground spaces are an authentic hive of activity. Your guide will be one of the singers!... And, if you want to make this experience more authentic, *Spain Collection* can even organise a private performance for you. Imagine having a duo of Opera singers, classical dancers or a string quartet performing just for you? Or a private atelier where you can learn the basics of ballet with your children? Experience with us what a “Night at the Opera” really means.

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Carlos





Spain Collection represents the **opportunity** to separate the wheat from the chaff, and to banish clichés and all that is "run of the mill". We will **showcase the real and authentic Spain**, not the Spain that others want it to be. If everyone travelled with the spirit that the Spain Collection team wants you to experience, **breathing and feeling Spain and Portugal**, the world would be a better place.

- Sonia Pájaro -  
[soni@spaincollection.com](mailto:soni@spaincollection.com)



**Our curator recommends...**

## **DISCOVER AN UNDERWATER WINERY**

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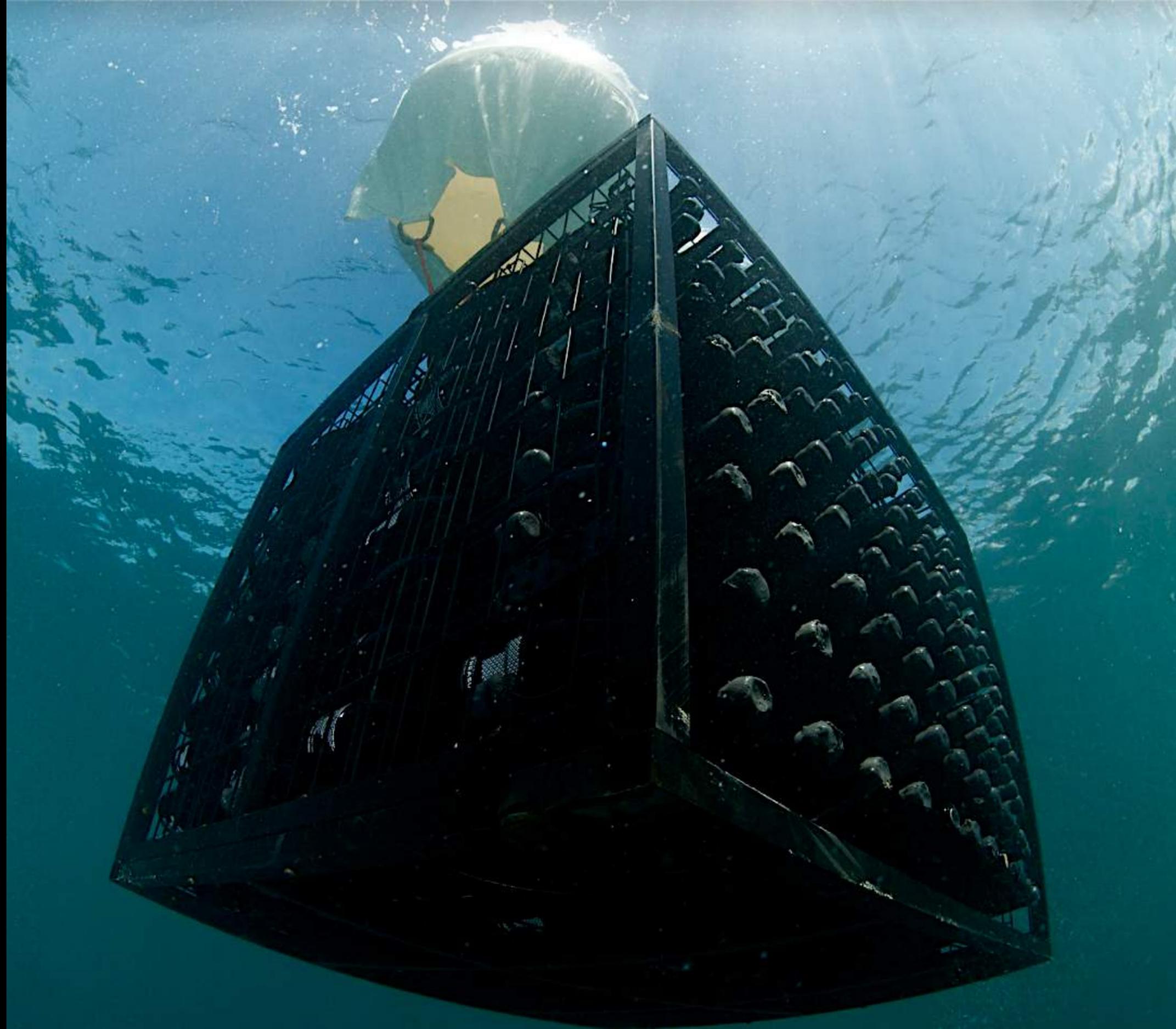
The Basque coastline hides some incredible secrets such as a winery that uses the coastal tides to age the wine. Accompanied by the owner of the winery we make our way to the “cellars” by boat and divers will retrieve cages loaded with bottles from the sea for a wine-tasting like no other!

Afterwards we will visit the private, hillside vineyard, and with spectacular views of the sea we will enjoy an outdoor lunch.

For those who really want to know more about the process we can organise a visit of the estate's warehouse facility where we can try wines "before" and "after" being submerged in the depths of the sea.

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Sonia





I am as **passionate about travel** as I **am passionate about people**, and Abene is one of those people who gets people to support her and travel to the ends of the world with her without a second thought. She had the crazy idea to create Spain Collection in the middle of a global pandemic and I couldn't help but buckle up and join her and **her team of extraordinary travel professionals**. Spain Collection is an **incredible adventure** and represents everything I aspire to in travel: **authenticity, local knowledge, and tailor-made experiences**. Discover Spain and Portugal with us and enjoy an unforgettable journey with our local knowledge.

- Juan Carlos Tejada -  
[jc@spaincollection.com](mailto:jc@spaincollection.com)



Our curator recommends...

## THE PORTUGUESE COASTAL CAMINO

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After 1000 years of tradition, I'm sure you've heard about El Camino de Santiago by now, if not maybe even having walked it too. Of the many various routes, the so-called Portuguese "Coastal Camino", offers something different, and it's a less-travelled option too!

My suggestion is to start in Porto, a booming city in the north of Portugal and home to the famous wine (the clue is in the name!). This charismatic and cosmopolitan city by the river Douro, was declared by UNESCO as World Heritage in 1996 and will captivate you with its characterful riverside taverns, Porto wine cellars and colourful buildings.

At a complete change of pace, we will head north and embark on an "off-the-beaten-path" walking pilgrimage following in the footsteps of the many travellers from across the world who have gone before us. Feel the ocean's breeze on your face while discussing the catch of the day with local fishermen or at the quaint little town of Caminha, simply enjoy a short ferry boat shuttle to go across river Minho.

In just five stages the landscape will shift from scenic views over the Atlantic ocean to small towns and shady forest before eventually arriving at the old city of Santiago de Compostela where you can join the pilgrims' mass at the impressive Romanesque 11<sup>th</sup> century cathedral. Receive the pilgrims' blessing and enjoy the grand finale with the "*el botafumeiro*", the world's biggest thurible (incense burner), a worthy end to this unique walking experience.

In Santiago, my recommendation is to have a wander around its cobblestoned streets and sample the many treats Galician cuisine has to offer, from the traditional *pulpo a feira* to the freshest seafood. Santiago is quite the gourmets' paradise!

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JC





Spain Collection is about hope and optimism for the future. Time is gold and Abene knows it; instead of waiting for the storm to pass, she has been committed to transmitting all her positive energy to the team. We are creating an exclusive product in the luxury tourism sector, because we don't want to wait for things to change, we want to lead the change! Spain and Portugal are unique. So is the Spain Collection.

- Lylian del Toro Kowalski -  
[lylian@spaincollection.com](mailto:lylian@spaincollection.com)



**Our curator recommends...**

## SANLÚCAR DE BARRAMEDA

### HORSE RACES

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Every year, over the first 2 weekends of August, the small seaside town of Sanlúcar de Barrameda becomes the venue for one of the biggest society events of the year. The low tide turns the beach into racetrack for one of the oldest and most unique horse races in Europe are held. These horse races have been happening here since 1845.

Sanlúcar is also famous for its sherry and is the favoured tippie at the races. The "Manzanilla de Sanlúcar" is one of the most renowned wines of the D.O. "Jerez-Sherry" and is only produced in this town. The wine pairs wonderfully with the prawns that are fished in this area. So, as with any "fiesta", the food and drink that accompanies the event is of equal importance!

Kick off a visit to this area of the world at one of the farms where the famous Pura Raza Española, one of the most prized horses in the world, is bred. A guided tour sheds light on the importance of this animal to the region of Andalusia. See a dressage training session and, if you wish, participate in an exercise putting these beautiful animals through their paces.

Then we head to the races from a spot which guarantees the best views of the action. Enjoy the fun whilst contemplating one of the most spectacular sunsets you can imagine, with a glass of Manzanilla de Sanlúcar in one hand and *tapas* of some local speciality in the other!

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Lilian





They say that after the storm comes a calm. We are currently living in a world where there has been more than just a storm. We are living in an **historic moment** in time and on a global level. All of us are affected and that is generating many changes and stirring the consciences of many. We are in a moment where there is no turning back, where we must **find balance and slow our pace of life**, and this includes the way we travel. In Spain Collection there is a purpose beyond the happiness of our clients, we also want to improve the situation of the communities in our destinations - maintain their beauty and identity, contribute to the local economy, regenerate ecosystems, and **respect the local people and their customs**. At Spain Collection we believe in a **more responsible and mindful tourism**.

- Marina Dieste -  
[marina@spaincollection.com](mailto:marina@spaincollection.com)



**Our curator recommends...**

## **LUXURY ECO TOURISM IN MALLORCA**

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Mallorca offers many choices that promote sustainable tourism, and Spain Collection brings you closer to the best luxury ecotourism options in Spain and Portugal.

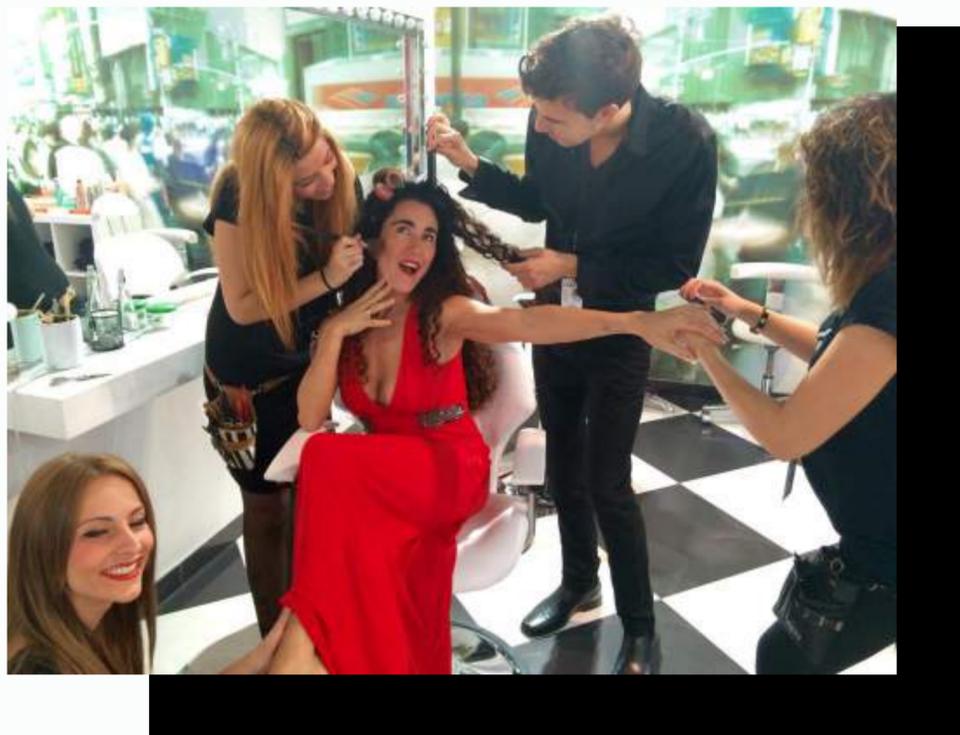
Mallorca is the largest of the Balearic islands and boasts beautiful Mediterranean landscapes. With its idyllic beaches and crystalline waters, and its dramatic mountain scenery with lush forests, it's a paradise to enjoy summer, spring or autumn, as Mallorca enjoys mild temperatures practically all year round. Here you will find hotels located in the midst of nature with excellent cuisine based on local and ecologically produced ingredients, and handcrafted wines and liquors.

Spain Collection proposes a different style of vacation, one which will connect you with the essence of the destination in a more mindful way. We will take you out of your daily routine and immerse you in the natural cycles of this destination through activities set in areas of spectacular natural beauty, and always in touch with the local culture and its cuisine. Together with our health experts we will design a comprehensive plan for you and your whole family to include natural therapies, biking routes, visits to artisan workshops, or visit to a farm to learn about the traditions of the island ...

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Marina





**Our idea of what's perfect is usually based on what we see in the movies.** That perfect kiss, that incredible night, that unforgettable summer, we always say "it's like in the movies", as if real life couldn't give us anything quite perfect, incredible or unforgettable. From now on we will be able to say "it's like traveling with Spain Collection" because this company's whole ethos is to do it better than in than "in the movies", to exceed expectations that we didn't even know we had, and to make us discover Spain and Portugal like nobody else.

**Very real trips beyond the stuff of dreams.**

- Olga Navarro -  
[olga@spaincollection.com](mailto:olga@spaincollection.com)



**Our curator recommends...**

## **SANTA EULALIA, BARCELONA**

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Paseo de Gracia is one of Barcelona's most famous boulevards not only because of the incredible architecture of the buildings that line it but because it condenses into its 1300-meter length, the top end of the city's luxury retail and hotel establishments.

Santa Eulalia, three floors of multi-brand exquisiteness, is one of the street's highlights that has led the way in the concept of "boutique" in Barcelona since 1901. It is a magical place where words like "style" or "beauty" become tangible objects. It's a mandatory stop for anyone interested in a high-end shopping experience.

That is why Spain Collection has prepared something truly exclusive for those who are looking for something more than just pretty handbags and expensive clothes: handmade shirts, expert style advice, bespoke tailoring, catering, music... in private, all just for you. Everyone will want to live it, but only a few will have the opportunity to talk about it!

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Olga



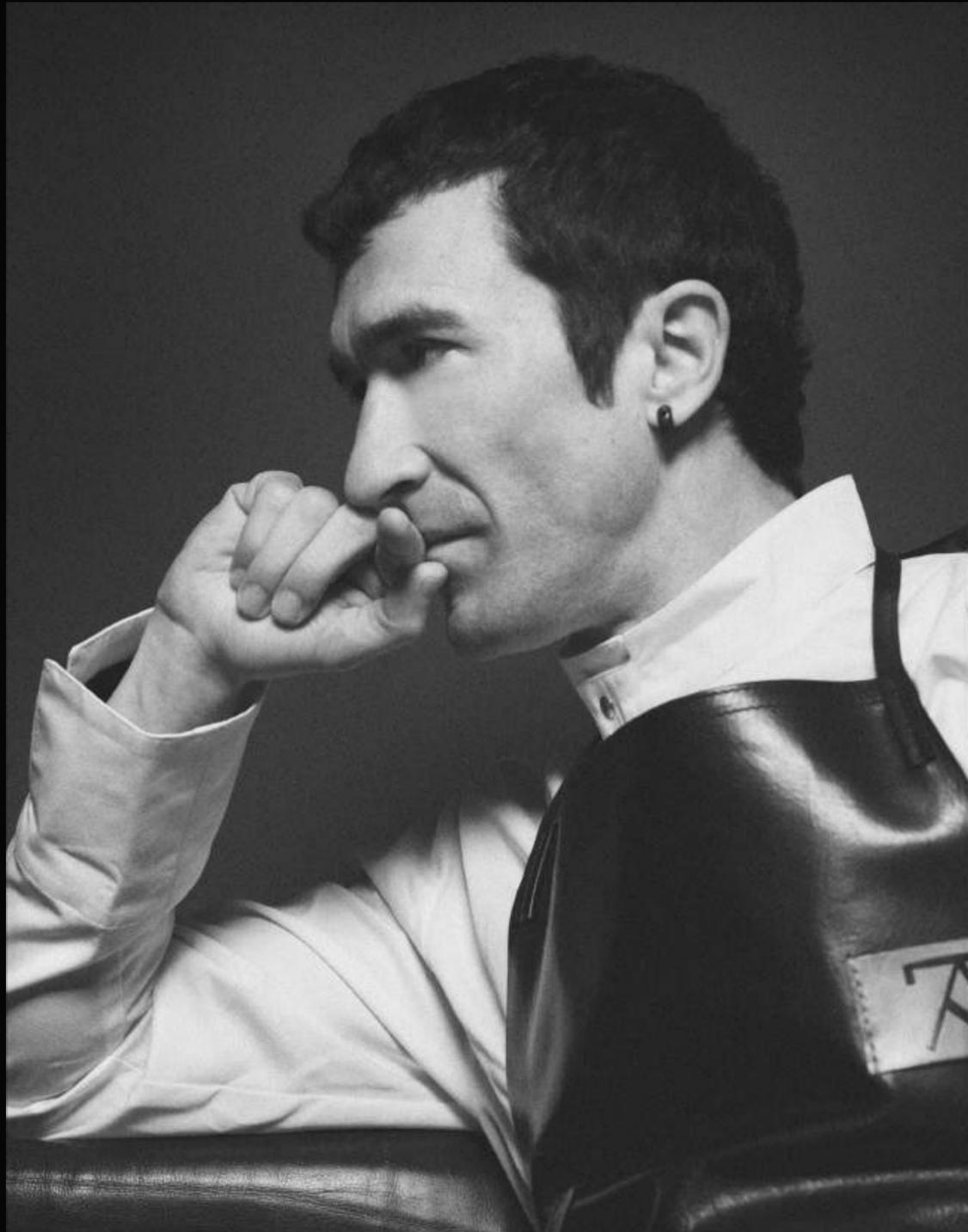


## What is Spain Collection?

**Abene:** SC is the result of a brainstorming process about a new type of tourism, about how to do things differently.

One day you are enjoying having a thriving company with business booked for months and years ahead when along comes something that changes life as you know it in an instant. It is like being shot out of a cannon... with no idea where you're going to land!

What we are doing is adjusting: how we should now approach our clients, our industry partners, and how we can reach out to people.



## Eneko Atxa.

**Basque chef, 5 Michelin stars**

**Spain Collection's Gastronomic Ambassador**

There are many “Spains” and finding something to link them all can prove difficult. But if the link exists we will surely find it in gastronomy, in the concept that we Spaniards, have of sitting at a table with friends and family, without television, without mobiles or computers. It doesn't matter if we are sharing a simple potato omelette or the elaborate creation of a great chef.

This is why **Spain Collection** has as its **gastronomic ambassador one of the best chefs in the world, Basque chef: Eneko Atxa.** Eneko inspires the culinary focus of our trips and, as the gastronomic director of the company, is fully involved in the culinary experience of our clients when they visit Spain and Portugal.

**Eneko Atxa (born 1977 in Euskadi, Spain) exemplifies the huge culinary talent of the Basques: 5 Michelin stars, 3 of them for his restaurant Azurmendi (Larrabetzu, Euskadi). Ranked 14th in the world according to “The World’s 50 Best” 2019.**

“Something beautiful and sensitive can have a lot of depth, energy, intensity and strength. This is what I try to deliver in my kitchen. Behind every subtlety there is strength x 3.”

- Eneko Atxa -



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