

ESPANGLISH

The Spanish Department's Newsletter



Toledo, Spain

¡Bienvenida de vuelta!

Hi everyone, welcome back to the Spanish newsletter!

This newsletter has been created for all those interested in the culture and languages of Spain and Latin America. Whether you're studying Spanish or not there is bound to be something for you in this newsletter.

If you have any suggestions or responses we would love to hear from you. Anything related to Spanish and the Latin American world is welcome just drop us an email at:

15Nutan596@kechg.org.uk
15Irshad790@kechg.org.uk

EspanGLISH is a frequent newsletter so there aren't any deadlines. We look forward to hearing from you!

By Nicole Soo, Kiran Nutan and Riya Dharmadhikari

IN THIS ISSUE

LOEWE

LOS CASTELLES

TORTILLA

FLAMENCO

EXPRESIÓN DE LA SEMANA

High end Loewe

Loewe es una de las casas de modas más famosas en España, que fue fundada en 1946, por un grupo de artesanos madrileños. Su particularidad son los bolsos de cuero, pero empezó a vender la ropa también en 1965, y ahora es una marca que puede competir con otras estrellas del mundo de la moda.

Loewe is one of the most famous fashion houses in Spain, that was founded in 1946 by a group of craftsmen from Madrid. Their speciality is leather bags, but they also started to sell clothes in 1965 and now is a brand that can compete with other stars in the fashion world.

As one of Spain's oldest and most well-established luxury fashion houses, Loewe is one of the most prominent brands in the world of fashion. It was founded by a group of craftsmen in Madrid in 1846, who began making leather goods such as bags and purses. In fact, the brand was so popular that it became endorsed by royals such as King Alfonso XIII. Despite originally specialising in leather accessories, Loewe launched its first ready-to-wear collection in 1965 and in 1986 it was taken over by LVMH, a French multinational corporation that specialises in luxury goods.



Fast-forward to the present day, Loewe is in the hands of J.W. Anderson, a British designer who became Loewe's creative director in 2013. Known for his androgynous and modern designs, Anderson sought to make Loewe into a modern, trend-led brand whilst still retaining its traditional roots, and thus, the brand went through a transformation. One of Anderson's most striking designs is the Puzzle bag, which has been sported by celebrities such as Beyonce and Sienna Miller, with a distinctly modern and geometric silhouette that still retains a sense of rustic elegance. Loewe has also gained popularity through working with rappers Pusha T and ASAP Rocky, and Kpop star Hyuna.

With 214 stores all over the world, Loewe is an internationally recognised brand, however it is seemingly most popular in Japan which is home to 41 stores, despite there being only 12 in Spain itself.

This may be due to its quirkier designs such as the Bunny bag and the Elephant bag which are shaped like the animals they are named after. Furthermore, Loewe recently collaborated with the Japanese film company Studio Ghibli to create the “Loewe X My Neighbour Totoro” capsule collection, consisting of accessories and clothing that were inspired by the film.



By Nicole Soo

Los castelles - the human towers

Located in Catalonia, Taragona is a port city, bordering the province of Barcelona. It is known for its ancient ruins, left over from the time when the city was a Roman colony. When you're there, you'll be able to see the amphitheater, and if you're lucky, you'll see a tower made out of humans.



“Los Castells” (the catalan word for castle) are constructed by many Catalans on each other's backs. Each person has their own role and function ,helping to keep the tower stable so that the person at the top (the “enxaneta”) can climb up and raise their arms for a few seconds, crowning the tower.

While normally the tower is constructed from the bottom up, there can be special practices where it is constructed in the opposite direction and once a layer is done, the next layer has to lift them up.

The construction of human towers was first documented in 1801, and the practice became a competition in the 1980s.

In 2010, the human towers were declared an intangible cultural heritage of humanity by UNESCO- recognising castells for their rich cultural diversity and their cultural significance. There is even a short film about them- Castells(2019).

Each town in Catalonia has its main colla, or team, and each colla has a headquarters which function almost as a social club.



. The collas train there three times a week but also meet to socialise. Several times throughout the year, each colla performs against two or three other teams where they attempt to make the tallest, most complex tower. The collas are recognisable thanks to the coloured shirts each member wears

Whilst you can see the towers throughout the year at various Catalonian festivals, there is a big competition every other October (the next one being in October 2020) where you can see some of the 60-70 castell teams go head-to-head. In 2018, 42 teams competed in Tarragona. Currently the world record for the highest uman tower was completed on the 25th of October 1981 in Spain- the tower was 9 levels high and 12 metres.



While these towers are a wonderful display of culture, they weren't always able to be practiced. During Franco's dictatorship, he banned many catalonian practices, including the use of the catalan language in schools and public administration. He threatened castells also, allowing only one team to practice. After the end of the dictatorship, the towers resurfaced and were a way to connect with the community, as they continue to be now. The practice is symbolic of togetherness, the elimination of class differences, and Catalonia's welcoming atmosphere



By Kiran Nutan

Easy(-ish) tapas recipes

Tapas- while originally an appetizer or starter- has evolved to the point where now they are often combined to form a whole meal. Originally, tapas were sold by inns, hostels and wine bars, and were just thin slices of bread or meat that could cover your glass and keep out fruit flies. You can see this in the etymology of the word- "tapas" coming from "tapar" which means to cover. However, as new ingredients and farming methods were introduced to Spain, tapas evolved to incorporate them, for example when the discovery of the New World also brought with it the discovery of potatoes and tomatoes which are prevalent in many tapas recipes, such as gazpacho. Here are some of the easier tapas recipes to have a try at:

Spanish tortilla

750 g potatoes

1 onion, sliced

125 ml olive oil

8 eggs

Salt and pepper

Fresh parsley



- 1.Heat oil in a non stick fry pan over medium heat. Add onion and potatoes, then turn over.,Place a lid on and stew the potatoes gently for 20 minutes or so, turning the potatoes 3 or 4 times with an egg flip until soft and cooked through. If the potatoes sizzle and are browning, turn the heat down.
- 2.Meanwhile, whisk eggs then season with salt and pepper.
- 3.When potatoes are ready, remove with a slotted spoon into a colander to allow excess oil to drain away.
- 4.Pour out most of the remaining oil in the skillet, leaving behind about 1 1/2 - 2 tbsp of oil.
- 5.Turn stove up to medium high. Turn grill/broiler onto high.
- 6.Return potatoes to the skillet, then pour over the egg. Cook for 5 minutes or until the underside is light golden.
- 7.If the centre is still uncooked, pop the omelette under the grill/broiler for a couple of minutes until the centre is just set
- 8.Remove then rest for a few minutes. Place a serving platter on top of the fry pan then flip to turn out the omelette upside down. Serve hot.

recipe from: <https://www.recipetineats.com/spanish-tortilla-omelette/>

By Kiran Nutan

Flamenco

For years, Spanish music has been embedded in its cultural history. Traditional folk music has associated itself with many different forms of dance, the two going hand in hand together, both characterised by their expressive musicalities.

Quite possibly one of the most well known forms of Spanish music traditions, Flamenco, can be identified by its high spirited mixtures of singing, vivid guitar playing, and rhythms produced by hand clapping, finger snapping and use of the castanets. There is also usually an incorporation of dance as well as bright costumes worn by dancers, to create passionate performances. It is often described as a state of mind, its intention being for the performers to create a connection with the audience.



This colourful art form also has many fascinating historical links. It is incredibly diverse, as although it stemmed from Andalusia, the Southernmost region of Spain, it also mixes many cultural influences from Arabic music, Central and South American colonies and even has traces to music from the Punjab region of India. This is largely due to the influence of the arrival of Nomadic gypsies in Spain during the 15th century, which introduced many new rhythms and instruments to the country that they adopted while on their travels around countries like India, Iran and Egypt. The gypsies also had a large impact on the traditional clothes worn by Flamenco dancers, and performers can now be characterised by their variations of bright-coloured gowns.

Interestingly, Flamenco gained the most national and European attention during the Romantic period from late 18th century to early 19th century. The Romantic era is well recognised for its heavy emphasis on literature and the arts, and flamenco seemed to be a perfect representation for that due to its deeply exotic and emotional nature. This period is known as the 'Golden Age of Flamenco'

By Riya Dharmadhikari

EXPRESIÓN DE LA SEMANA

This month's proverb is "Más vale pájaro en mano que cien volando." It's literal translation is "a bird in hand is worth more than a hundred in flight"- so essentially what you have right now is more valuable than what you don't.

For instance, you've ordered a meal that isn't quite what you had in mind...