

# April Fair

**Sevilla.**

So famous.  
So unknown.



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Caseta niños perdidos	954 459 189
Asistencia Veterinaria	954 457 030

# 01 ■ History

The origins of Seville's Spring Fair or Feria de Abril date back to 1846. It was originally conceived as a livestock market by José María Ybarra, first Count of Ybarra, and Narciso Bonaplata, during the period when the Count of Montelirio was Mayor of Seville, but it was not until the following year that it was officially inaugurated, with the event lasting three days. After a few years, the popularity of the Feria increased considerably, as did the number of livestock sellers and buyers, as well as travelling merchants who came to sell their wares to visitors. Gradually the atmosphere of the fair took on a more festive and recreational character as the general public began to attend dances organised in the casetas (marquees) and small platforms installed on the site.

The event was declared a Fiesta Mayor by the City Council in 1910, thus encouraging visitors to travel to Seville during the designated dates in April.

Around the same time bullfights began to be held at the Maestranza bullring and this contributed to increasing the popularity of the Feria even more.

For the celebration in Seville of the 1929 Latin American Exhibition, the Feria, which by then had become an essentially festive event with no connection with the trading of livestock, was moved to the Prado de San Sebastián, which remained its official site until 1972, its 125th anniversary. It then moved to its current location in an unused open area in the barrio of Los Remedios, and the opportunity for growth which the new space offered led to the Feria reaching the worldwide level of fame and importance it enjoys today, becoming the city's most iconic cultural and festive event, and an epicentre for social life where Sevillanos enjoy a whole week of partying with family and friends. **The Feria de Abril is held one or two weeks after Holy Week and lasts for a week. It officially begins on Saturday night or “sábado del pescaíto”, when the hundreds of thousands of light bulbs installed on the feria site are turned on to mark its inauguration (after which it is traditional to sample pescaíto frito or fried fish in the casetas), and comes to an end at midnight the following Saturday with a spectacular firework display next to the river Guadalquivir.**





With its casetas, arranged along streets named after famous bullfighters, the Feria almost becomes a small ephemeral town. Entrance to the site is through a colourful and monumental portada or gateway which is installed every year. Illuminated with thousands of lights, the portada, which is different each year, makes reference to a particular monument in the city and is a popular meeting place for the locals. The whole Feria site is lit with thousands of light bulbs covered by farolillos (spherical paper lanterns). The streets themselves are covered with compressed albero (a bright yellow soil sourced from the nearby municipality of Alcalá de Guadaira, which is traditionally used in Seville in gardens and bullrings).

# 02. Las Casetas

The casetas are a modern version of the candle-lit platforms covered with canopies originally installed in the earliest livestock ferias to shelter the public from the weather. Over time, thanks to the characteristic idiosyncrasy of the Sevillanos, a more festive and lively atmosphere began to develop around the casetas.

Today, the casetas are composed of one or several modules of a specific size with an entrance delimited by a fence or railing. They are completely covered with a white canopy with green or red stripes which is decorated in the centre above the entrance with a triangular pañoleta or shawl and various artistic motifs. Most of the social interaction between the visitors to the caseta takes place in the frontal or finer part, which is what we can see from outside. This is where all the dancing and singing takes place and there are usually tables and chairs for relaxing and enjoying a typical dish accompanied by a good Fino or Manzanilla. Out of sight in the back part or trastienda are the kitchen, bar (ideal for a quiet conversation) and toilets.

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More than a thousand casetas belonging to families, societies, organisations, companies and neighbourhoods (the latter with free admission) are installed each year in the feria. The vast majority are privately owned and therefore it is recommended that visitors go to the Feria with someone from Seville who can take them to the casetas of their colleagues and friends.

## Casetas with free admision

### **CASETA DEL TURISTA:**

**Pascual Márquez, 225-229**

*The casetas belonging to various of the city's neighbourhoods and political parties have free admission and remain open until three in the morning with people dancing to rumbas and sevillanas.*

**Distrito Casco Antiguo** c/ Antonio Bienvenida 97-101

**Distrito Este – Cerro – Amate** c/ Pascual Márquez 215-219

**Distrito Macarena – Macarena Norte** c/ Pascual Márquez 85-89

**Distrito Nervión-San Pablo-Santa Justa** c/ Costillares 22-26

**Distrito Sur-Bellavista-La Palmera** c/ Ignacio Sánchez Mejías 61-65

**Distrito Triana-Los Remedios** c/ Pascual Márquez 153-157

**Caseta de Fiestas Mayores** c/ Costillares 13-17

**PSOE Andalucía** c/ Antonio Bienvenida 79

**Partido Popular** c/ Pascual Márquez 66

**Partido Andalucista** c/ Juan Belmonte 196



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# Tourist Caseta

*225-229 Pascual Márquez Street.*

Tourist Caseta it has a terrace area and an indoor area. **Reservations are always required.**

## Reservation table at Caseta del Turista 2023

Tlf: **0034 609 98 58 76**

eventos@lonjadelbarranco.com

*Within the hours established by the Municipal Ordinance of the Feria de Abril, there will be ambient music in the caseta, consisting of sevillanas and rumbas.*

## **Musical shows:**

**Saturday 22 April:** 00.00-01.30h / Dj a partir de la 1:30h

**Sunday 23 April:** 16.00-18.00h / 20.00-22.00 and 23.00-01.00h

**Monday 24 April:** 17.00-19.00/ 19.00-21.00 and 23.00-01.00h

**Tuesday 25 April:** 16.00-18.00h / 20.00-22.00h and 23.00-01.00h

**Wednesday 26 April:** 17.00-19.00h/ 19.00-21.00h and 23.00-01.00h

**Thursday 27 April:** 17.00-19.00/ 19.00-21.00 and 23.00-01.00h

**Friday 28 April:** 17.00-19.00/ 19.00-21.00 and 23.00-01.00h

**Saturday 29 April:** 17.00-19.00/ 19.00-21.00 and 23.00-01.00h

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## 03. The Flamenco Dress

It is a firm tradition that Sevillian women go to the feria wearing the classical flamenco or gypsy dress. Its origins can be traced back to the early livestock fairs, where the women who accompanied the traders and dealers, mostly gypsies and peasants from Andalusia, usually wore cheap percale dresses with the classic polka dots. With the passing of time, these long working dresses ending in two or three horizontal ruffles became increasingly fashionable because of the way they enhanced the shape and grace of a woman's figure. The Seville Exhibition of 1929 contributed to the consolidation of the flamenco dress, leading to its being accepted by the wealthier classes as essential wear for the feria. The characteristics and shape of the dress have evolved with the passing of time: V-shaped, rounded or square necklines; tight-fitting waist with the skirt opening like a flower; hair tied up in a bun; and a special focus on the accessories (flowers in the hair, a scarf or a manila shawl, earrings, etc). Today, the flamenco dress is the only form of regional costume which still follows the dictates of women's fashion.

# 04. Day Fair/ Night Fair

There are many different moments to enjoy the feria, and the atmosphere varies depending on the time of day.

Thus, we can make a differentiation between the daytime and night-time feria. The daytime activity tends to begin around 2.30 pm, with people arriving at the casetas to have lunch, enjoy the festive and colourful atmosphere, and admire what is popularly known in Seville as the “paseo de caballos”, an iconic parade of horses and carriages, a spectacle which is unique in the world. A good piece of advice: find a shaded spot in any of the streets to watch the parade of hundreds of horses ridden and embellished in a country style fashion by men and women dressed in short bolero jackets and breeches (the traditional costume of Andalusian peasants) and wide brimmed hats.

The majestic display of horse drawn carts and carriages, and the skilful control of the drivers and footmen is a ritual which has been enacted year after year for more than a century. Rather than going anywhere, they are simply parading up and down and enjoying being the focus of attention as they pass by on horseback or in a carriage being pulled by spectacular horses or mules.

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On the morning of the Sunday leading up to the Feria, a driving competition held in the Maestranza bullring offers an excellent opportunity to admire the various carts and carriages which participate in the paseo de caballos during the feria week. The event is promoted by the Real Club de Enganches de Andalucía and includes a display of the various technical and aesthetic characteristics of each discipline. Extremely interesting. **Night time tends to be for the young or the real feria enthusiasts. It begins when the bullfights finish around 9.30 pm, and, after dining in the casetas or in the restaurants located in the area surrounding the site, it is time to enjoy everything the Feria has to offer, with the flamenco and the drinking carrying on until well into the early hours of the morning.**

# 05. Funfair

The Funfair offers a wide range of amusements and attractions for all the family. **Known as the “Calle del Infierno” or “road of hell” because of the loud music and noisy atmosphere created around the attractions, the temporary funfair occupies a large open area situated next to the feria site itself.** There are some four hundred different attractions, ranging from the more traditional – the big wheel, the whip, dodgems, rollercoaster, etc., - to other more modern and spectacular ones: the human catapults, windmills, freefall towers, and other spectacular attractions which reach dizzying heights and speeds. Our unquenchable desire to win a prize either by luck or skill, means that the various stalls with tombolas and other games are also very popular: camel races, hooking ducks, water guns, bingo, etc.

**To one side of the Funfair are the marquees of the circus, an itinerant artistic spectacle which includes acrobats, clowns, magicians, animal trainers and other artists, and always delights the younger ones amongst us.**

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## 06. Sevillanas

**Sevillanas are the typical form of song and dance of Seville's Feria. They are derived from ancient compositions which were known as "seguidillas castellanas", which, over time, evolved into the form of song and dance that we know today. There are many types of sevillanas which in terms of their lyrics and themes can be classified into: regionalist (Feria, Holy Week, celebrities, bullfighting, Seville, etc.); songs of love; rocieras; corraleras, etc. There are also slower and faster styles.**

Sevillanas are usually danced in pairs, although there are exceptions and more experimental forms in which the dance is performed by more than two people carrying out the steps and movements at the same time.

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# 07 The Maestranza and Bullfighting

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The Feria de Sevilla would certainly not be the same without the bullfighting. Together with Las Ventas in Madrid, Seville's Maestranza bullring is considered the most important in the world, therefore to earn international recognition, it is essential that bullfighters deliver an outstanding performance in Seville's arena. The bullfighting season at La Maestranza starts on Easter Sunday, and there are also other events throughout the year. The season called "de farolillos" lasts until the last day of the Feria, attracting the most celebrated matadors of the day and the finest Spanish bulls.

The Real Maestranza bullring is situated in the very heart of the barrio of El Arenal in an area delimited by the boulevard of Paseo de Cristóbal Colón, and calles Adriano and Antonia Díaz. It was built between the 18th and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, between 1761 and 1881 to be precise, and its beautiful façade is in a baroque style with marked regionalist features, such as the distinctively Andalusian combination of white and albero colours.



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Its upper terraces are covered by a roof supported by marble arches and columns. **On the eastern side is the Puerta del Príncipe, the most famous door in the world of bullfighting. When a bullfighter performs exceptionally well (a minimum reward of “three ears”) they emerge through this door carried on their followers’ shoulders. In Seville, the experience of bullfighting has a special intensity which starts with the paseíllo and does not finish until the aficionado arrives home. Indeed, the fiesta does not draw to a sudden halt with the dying of the last bull, the passion and enthusiasm continue on the streets, in the bars, or in the Feria, where friends gather to comment on what happened in the plaza that afternoon.** This is why in Seville bullfighting takes on a special meaning: it is a ritual, a deeply rooted tradition of which both the sevillanos and the bullfighting world is immensely proud. The expectant hush, the ovations and the respect with which the public appreciate the professionalism of matadors demonstrate the true respect which people have for the art.

**The Real Maestranza de Caballería and Plaza de Toros de Sevilla. The very Mecca of bullfighting.**

<https://plazadetorosdelamaestranza.com/>



# 08. Gastronomy

Eating and drinking are two of the essential pleasures for visitors to the feria. All the casetas offer a wide range of delicious food which permits people to satiate their hunger or quench their thirst at any time of day. Without doubt, the first great gastronomic experience of the feria is the night of the “pescaíto”. This is a specially prepared supper, which is exclusive to the paying members of the casetas, and is held on the Saturday night as a form of introduction for what is to come. The meal tends to last until sometime after the “alumbrao” (the official switching on of the lights) which takes place at midnight. The main dish served during the meal is, as the name suggests, “pescaíto frito”, a selection of freshly fried or marinated fish including dabs, baby hake, fresh anchovies, and squid.

During the Feria, the Iberico or Jabugo Ham, as well as other cured meats from acorn fed pigs, and the King Prawns from Sanlúcar, are an absolute must. They are usually accompanied by two traditional types of sherry produced in Andalusia, Manzanilla from Sanlúcar de Barrameda and Fino from Jerez. It is also common to drink beer or the popular **rebujito**: **manzanilla mixed with a fizzy lemon and lime drink to reduce the alcohol content which is accompanied by plenty of ice.**

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Each day for lunch, it is customary for each caseta to prepare a “guiso” (or pot of stew). The wide range of guisos includes potatoes with chocos (cuttlefish), chickpeas, caldereta (pork stew) and a wide variety of other typically Andalusian dishes which are best eaten with a spoon. Other simpler but equally delicious specialities include the Iberico pork products, prawns from Huelva, scrambled eggs, salmorejo (a version of gazpacho), fried peppers, montaditos (small sandwiches), and of course, the famous and exquisite tortilla española or potato omelette.

Although there is not a specific time, lunch in the Feria is usually eaten rather late, usually between 3.00 and 3.30 pm or even at 4.00. The reason for this is that as Monday to Friday are working days in the city, people arrive there after they have left work and made their way to the site. Visitors, or those who, for one reason or another, do not have to work during feria week, can start with an aperitif a little earlier in any of the city’s numerous bars and restaurants.

It is very common for groups of friends or work colleagues to meet for lunch in the feria, especially on the first two days of the week. It is the perfect setting and time to enjoy a little socialising and get away from the daily routine with a pleasant chat, a story or two, or simply by enjoying the company of friends in an atmosphere which is completely different from any other day. Often these meals are followed by a long after-lunch conversation which tends to last until well into the evening. Dinner, if it happens at all, (since quite often people start snacking in the mid afternoon and simply continue until the evening) is very similar to lunch, although it usually does not include the guiso of the day. Later in the evening, when the effects of the constant drinking are beginning to take their toll there is nothing better than an energy-restoring consommé which is usually seasoned with mint leaves.





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**Another tradition of the feria is to eat buñuelos (small doughnuts) or churros (fritters) accompanied with a cup of hot chocolate. As we set off on our way home, we come across an array of stalls, run by gypsy families, selling buñuelos. Seeing the women in their spotless white aprons deep frying the buñuelos in huge pots filled with boiling oil is a memorable sight in itself. Alternatively, one can opt for one of the numerous churros stalls which are dotted along the streets between the feria site and the city centre for one last snack before getting that well-deserved rest.**

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# Public Horse-Drawn Carriage Fares

OFFICIAL HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE STOP NEXT TO THE FERIA'S  
MAIN ENTRANCE

**APRIL FAIR SPECIAL RATE, 95 € per hour**, inside and outside the Feria- Pick up from the hotel, ride and drop off at the Fair 200€ the first hour. From the second hour onwards 95€ p/hour.

Pick up at the Feria **95€ p/hour**.

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# Special Services Buses April Fair 2023

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# 2023 Feria de Abril

## Shuttle Bus Service

(From 22 to 29 April 2023)

### LINES WITH DIRECT SERVICE TO THE Feria de Abril (STOPS NEAR THE MAIN ENTRANCE)

- PRADO-Feria de Abril SPECIAL:..... In cash 1,60€ and with Multiviaje Card 1,50€.
- SPECIAL CHARCO LA PAVA ..... Free service.
- Lines 5, 6, 41, C1 and C2:..... From 24:00 h. to 6:00 AM. only in cash 1,60€ and with a Multiviaje Card (BONOBUS) 1,50€.

### FROM PRADO SAN SEBASTIAN TO THE SHUTTLE BUS TO FERIA DE ABRIL

- Lines 1, 21, 22, 25, 26, 28, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 37, 38, C3, C4, LE, LN and EA.
- Lines 10,11,12,15,16,20,27 and 52 change their terminus to Prado on the Saturday of the Alumbrado, Sunday, Wednesday and Saturday of the Feria de Abril from 19:00pm. On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of the Feria de Abril from 22.00pm.
- Buses 21 and 37: move their terminus to the Prado from 24:00 on each day of the Feria de Abril. All these lines run all night on (except 1, C3, C4, EA, LE and LN)

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Lines 5 (direction Santa Aurelia) and C1: special itineraries from 12.00 to 7.00 am to Feria de Abril (until 5:30am on Sunday 30 April)
- Lines 6 (direction V. del Rocío), 41 (direction centre) and C2: from 12:00 h. on the Saturday of the Alumbrado and until 5:30 h. on Sunday 30 April, they run along República Argentina and Juan Sebastián Elcano, with access to the Feria de Abril  
Line 41 only runs along República Argentina until 12:00 noon each day.
- Line 3: with uninterrupted service, maintaining its usual route.
- Lines C1 and C2: will run along Calle Torneo (without running along Cartuja) everyday from 4:00pm to until 6:00am. Sat 29th April from 6:00pm.
- Tram (Metrocentro Line): maintains its normal operating schedule.
- Night Lines: no service during the week of the Feria de Abril.

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## TIMETABLES BUS LINES CHANGES

LINE	SATURDAY OF LIGHTNING (Alumbrado) AND SUNDAY	MONDAY AND TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
<b>ESPECIAL PRADO - FERIA</b>	6:00 pm to 7:00 am, non-stop service	12:00 pm to 7:00 am next day	7:00 to Thursday 7:00 am	12:00 pm to Friday 7:00 am	12:00 pm to 5:30 am
C1, C2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 37, 38, 41, 52	All these lines are uninterrupted until 5:30 a.m. on Sunday 30 April.				

### RECUERDE



21:00 h.

IF YOU PAY CASH REMEMBER AFTER 21:00H MANDATORY TO BRING THE EXACT AMOUNT.

### RECOMMENDED LINES TO ACCESS THE Feria de Abril

**EAST ZONE** 20, 21, 22, 25, 26  
27, 28, 29, 52, LE  
**SOUTH ZONE** 30, 31, 34, 37, 38  
**NORTH ZONE** 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, LN



ENLACE CON ESPECIAL PRADO-FERIA

**EAST ZONE 5, C1**  
**NORTH ZONE 3, 6**  
**SOUTH ZONE 3**  
**WEST ZONE 5, C2**  
**CENTRAL ZONE 41**



DIRECTO A FERIA

### TERMINAL TICKET OFFICE OPENING HOURS



### SALE AND RECHARGING OF MULTI-JOURNEY TICKETS (BONOBUS)



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# Guided tours and Tourist information

## Guided Tours

Aimed at our visitors inside the Real de la Feria. This is a way of to present the Sevillian April Fair to tourists, explaining our customs and the way to enjoy our festival. This is a free public service of guided tours inside the Real de la Feria.

## To request a guided tour

- 1.- At the kiosks of the Feria (Portada in c/Antonio Bienvenida or in C/ Costillares).
- 2.-Via [this link](#).

*The route of the visit will start at the information point at the Feria's main entrance, Calle Antonio Bienvenida, passing through the central street of the Real and ending at the Tourist Caseta at Calle Pascual Márquez number 225-229.*

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Languages:** Spanish, French and English

**Price:** Free of charge

## Timetable:

**Sunday 23:** 13.30-15.30-17.30

**Monday 24:** 13.30-15.30-17.30

**Tuesday 25:** 13.30-15.30-17.30

**Wednesday 26:** 13.30-15.30-17.30

**Thursday 27:** 13.30-15.30-17.30

**Friday 28:** 13.30-15.30-17.30

**Saturday 29:** 13.30-15.30-17.30

## **Real de la Feria Information Points:**

**1.- Next to the Portada, Antonio  
Bienvenida Street.**

**2.- Calle Costillares, next to the entrance  
to the Calle del Infierno.**

Opening hours:

From Sunday 23 to Saturday 29.

12:30h to 18:30h

+34 667 66 91 86

[visitasevilla@sevillacityoffice.es](mailto:visitasevilla@sevillacityoffice.es)

## **For more information:**

**Information Point Costurero de la Reina:**

Opening hours:

From Sunday 23 to Saturday 29.

11:30h to 17:00h

+34 610 70 43 21

[visitasevilla@sevillacityoffice.es](mailto:visitasevilla@sevillacityoffice.es)

**Castillo de San Jorge Information Point:**

Opening hours:

From Monday 24 to Friday 28.

9:30h to 15:00h

+34 663 14 11 80

[visitasevilla@sevillacityoffice.es](mailto:visitasevilla@sevillacityoffice.es)

**Marqués de Contadero Tourist Office:**

Opening hours:

Monday 24 and Tuesday 25.

9:30h to 14:00h

955 471 232

[visitasevilla@sevillacityoffice.es](mailto:visitasevilla@sevillacityoffice.es)

**Tourist Information Point Kiosco Paseo  
Colón: Closed**

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Teléfono +34 955 47 12 32  
visitasevilla@sevillacityoffice.es  
www.visitasevilla.es  
Paseo Marqués de Contadero s/n

**S City Office**