

# entertainment

If you're searching for entertainment, you won't be disappointed in Madrid. With more bars than you can count, it could take you a lifetime to visit all the cool spots to enjoy *cañas* and *mojitos* in the city. This section brings you but a selection of the finest hangouts on offer, including live music venues (below), the cheapest places to drink, a guide to clubbing in the capital and the best way to entertain yourself for a whole week without spending a single euro! Amazingly, it can be done. Madrid never stops, and

these pages give you just a taste of the activities on offer. Just don't forget to programme in some time to study!



## GIG VENUES

**Moby Dick Club, Avda del Brasil, 5, tel: 91 555 76 71 (Metro: Cuzco/Santiago Bernabéu). [www.mobydickclub.com](http://www.mobydickclub.com)**

Best soundsystem in Madrid, in a tiny venue near the Bernabéu. Great place to see up-and-coming international bands at their best — just be sure to leave quickly on weeknights, as the clientele changes drastically the second the bands stop playing.

**Galleo Galleo, c/Galleo, 100, tel: 91 534 75 57 (Metro: Islas Filipinas/Quevedo). [www.sala.galleogalleo.com](http://www.sala.galleogalleo.com)**

Out of the centre, but one of the most original spaces in Madrid thanks to its balconies, pink neon and no-smoking policy. Jazz during the week, but weekends see the Neu! Club invite international djs and bands for a mix of lo-fi, electronic squelches and creative rock'n'roll.

**Sala Heineken, c/Princesa, 1, tel: 91 547 66 80 (Metro: Pl de España). [www.salahelneken.com](http://www.salahelneken.com)**

In a past life this medium-sized venue by Plaza de España was a theatre. Nowadays it's a concert space attracting international names to Madrid. The sound can be touch and go, and the brand-themed décor a bit nauseating but it's still a good venue. Recent headliners include Juliette Lewis, José González and Great White.

**La Riviera, Pº Bajo de la Virgen del Puerto, s/n, tel: 91 365 24 15 (Metro: Puerta del Ángel).**

A bit like the subtropical dome in Centre Parcs or a Vegas hotel thanks to its indoor palm trees. It's got great sound and tons of character, but you tend to come out whistling "Copacabana", no matter who you've been to see.

**El Sol, c/Jardines, 3) tel: 91 532 64 90 (Metro: Gran Vía). [www.elsolmad.com](http://www.elsolmad.com)**

A Madrid institution. La Sala Sol has been going since the *movida*, without losing any of its edge (or changing its decoration). Expect a crowd from every walk of life, crammed against each other until seven in the morning. Bands are rarely international, but really, being cool isn't the point.

**Café La Palma, c/La Palma, 62, tel: 91 522 50 31 (Metro: Noviciado/San Bernardo). [www.cafelapalma.com](http://www.cafelapalma.com)**

When Malasaña gets too much at the weekends, cross Noviciado to find this gem of a venue, split between a cosy bar and an even cosier live space hosting lo-fi international groups and the best of the local underground. ■ PAUL GEDDIS

# THE CHEAPEST DRINKS IN MADRID

Are you trying to save enough euros to go on holiday and still have money to go out on the town? **Hannah Vickers** goes in search of the cheapest drinks in Madrid and gets totally plastered along the way



Photos: Hannah Vickers

## Viva Chapata

First up was Viva Chapata, a wine bar on calle Ave María, just up from Plaza Lavapiés. Their cañas cost €1.20 and wines start at €1.40. I had a glass of nice fruity red wine from La Rioja, and a bit of bread and cheese for €1.40. I'm embarrassingly ignorant when it comes to wine; the only thing I know is

that it comes in two colours. But, every so often I like to sit in a bar with a glass of the red stuff in one hand and try to act sophisticated. Viva Chapata is small and very relaxed, and the wall behind the bar is full of bottles of wine on chunky wooden shelves, and the prices are chalked up wherever there's space. They also sell chapatas, mini pizzas, salads, toasts and scrambled eggs at a decent price. **Viva Chapata, c/Ave María, 43, tel, 91 530 10 93 (Metro: Lavapiés). Caña: €1.20, jarra of beer: €2.50/3, copa: €5/6 (domestic), €6/7 (import), vermouth: €1.50/1.80, tinto de verano: €2.80/3.20, soft drinks/juices: €1.80/2.20 (prices differ between bar and table).**

## Las Horas

By the time they finally managed to persuade me to leave, I was already fairly cheerful. Then I noticed that my purse was still almost as full



as when I started out and I was even happier. I stumbled up the hill towards Sol, making a pit-stop in Las Horas (It's thirsty work, all this research), a beautiful, bizarre little bar on calle Magdalena, just off Plaza Tirso de Molina. My caña cost me a cool €1.20, and

every Thursday they're half price from 9pm-1am. The woman behind the bar looked at me sadly, as I picked up all my change off the little plate with an apologetic smile. I'm poor, damn it!

The bar is dominated by a tree painted on the wall and across half the ceiling. It's got plastic apples and drooping Dali-style clock faces hanging off its painted branches. It's all very surreal, a bit like Alice's wonderland, the only thing that spoils the dreamlike atmosphere is the rather *cutre* music. At one point they had the Backstreet Boys gently crooning in the background, which would make anyone need a drink. **Las Horas, c/de la Magdalena, 32, tel: 656 231 390 (Metro: Tirso de Molina/Antón Martín). Caña: €1.20/1.40 (60c Thursdays 9pm-1am), copa, €6 (imported: €8), coffee/teas: €1.50/2, soft drinks/juices/milkshakes: €1.70/2, toasts: €3.50 (prices differ between day and night. Night starts at 9pm).**

## El Tigre

Being the sucker for punishment that I am, I decided to go to an even busier place. El Tigre, in Chueca, is a bit pricier, at €1.50, but their generous tapas make it easier to part with the extra few cents. People are so tightly squeezed in that it's diffi-



cult to open the door and it's a real fight to get inside. I elbowed my way to the bar as politely as I possibly could.

There was an unofficial queue for the bar stools, the standing punters elbow-to-elbow, subtly trying to be closest to the privileged few who were seated, waiting for them to leave. When I'd finally managed to make it to the bar I ordered a *tinto de verano* and got a nice-sized complimentary plate of paella for my troubles. Not bad. It's difficult to eat when you've got a drink in one hand, your plate balanced precariously in the other and people shoving and elbowing from all sides, but somehow I managed it. **El Tigre, c/Infantas 30, tel: 91 532 00 72 (Metro: Gran Vía/Banco de España).**

# PUB CRAWLS

Play join the dots on your nights out in Madrid, as you bar hop from one fine establishment to the next. We map out three routes to get you started

## SOL CRAWL

**First stop: La Cosa Nostra.** The *dueños* of this bar have a mafia fixation — there’s a life-size, cigar-chomping Al Capone in the upstairs bar — but the real killer is the beer menu, which includes some of Belgium’s finest ales and imported US and UK brews, complemented by a selection of traditional Spanish *tostadas* and *raciones* at a price that suits non-connected pockets. Just be sure to pay the bill before you leave, *capiche?* **C/de la Cruz, 3 (Metro: Sol).**

**Second stop: La Fragua del Vulcano.** For local flavour served in a traditional *madrileño* environment, look no further than La Fragua. A gargantuan beer retails at a reasonable €3.50, and La Fragua is famed for shrimp, which come grilled with garlic or pan-fried. At €6 a plate, it’s cheap fuel for a night on the town. **C/Núñez de Arce, s/n (Metro: Sol).**

**Third stop: La Solera.** If you’re on the lookout for wine, tapas and flamenco, you’ll love La Solera. Everything in here is designed to whet your appetite as you wet your whistle, from the *jamón ibérico* on the bar to the skilfully crafted tapas and extensive wine list. It’s possible that once you’ve eaten here, you’ll never cook at home again. **C/de la Cruz, 8 (Metro: Sol).**

## LAVAPIÉS CRAWL

**First stop: La Granola.** For a fix of Che, see La Granola. Cosy and brimming with hemp-bedecked cool, the tables are low and the seats are empty beer barrels. But it’s the cocktails that keep the punters coming back, *mojitos* being the order of the day. Ten euros buys you a litre, to be passed Viking-style around the table. Be warned — two of these babies will see you crawling home on your lips. **C/Sombrerete, 9 (Metro: Lavaplés).**

**Second stop: Bar Económico.** In summer it has one of Madrid’s best *terrazas*, and all year round it has one of the finest bar menus citywide. Rather than the standard tortilla, *jamón* and cheese, at Económico you can order foie with a walnut salad. Their wine list is one of the nicest in the barrio, and the service is swift, friendly and informed. **C/Arguñosa, 11 (Metro: Lavaplés).**

**Third stop: El Sur.** El Sur stocks a good selection of



La Fragua del Vulcano

Photo: Jenny Bosustow

Spanish wines and serves a range of tapas and *raciones*, from spinach-and-onion quiche, to traditional Spanish fare. As well as being a sterling bet for good food and drink, El Sur also provides Spanish film enthusiasts with some of the country’s greatest celluloid moments, with classic posters spanning the last half-century adorning the walls. **C/Torreclilla del Leal, 12, tel: 91 527 83 40 (Metro: Antón Martín).**

## CHUECA CRAWL

**First stop: Café Belén.** Not the cheapest bar in town, but certainly less costly than the others in the neighbourhood. Bottled spirits are the real deal, the vibe is urban chic and the surroundings are relaxed, with candlelight and low-fi tunes instead of the often too-cool-for-school pretensions of the *barrio* at large. **C/Belén 5, tel: 91 308 27 47 (Metro: Chueca).**

**Second stop: Stop Madrid.** An oxymoron in a city that barely slows down, but a great corner bar that serves up first-rate wines and tapas in a low-key environment with a friendly atmosphere. It’s easy on your bank balance too, with *tostadas* in the €2-3 range. **C/Hortaleza, 11 (Metro: Gran Vía).**

**Third stop: Fill in name here . . .** If you fancy watching the world go by, but don’t want to foot the bill for sitting out in a square, try grabbing a bit of doorway, at the bar that everybody knows by face, if not by name, located on the north edge of Plaza Chueca. The vermouth, olives and *boquerones* flow freely on Saturdays and Sundays. **Plaza Chueca (Metro: Chueca).** ■ ROB TRAIN

# NIGHTLIFE

**It's time to adjust your body clock. Life in Madrid is all about nightlife. It takes real stamina to keep up with the party people here. Normally, the time to go out is after 10pm, and the partying carries on until 7am. Make sure you take an afternoon siesta before heading out to one of these venues below . . .**

## Price Guide

€: Cheap!

€€: A bit pricier

€€€: Damn! That's expensive!

## Early birds go to . . .

**LA BOCA DEL LOBO, c/Echegaray, 11 (Metro: Sevilla). Weds-Sat, 10.30pm-3.30am. [www.labocadeloblo.com](http://www.labocadeloblo.com)**

Rock, funk, electronic jazz and rare groove served up four nights in addition to live music. €€

**COPOLACLUB, c/San Hermenegildo, 7, (Metro: San Bernardo/Noviciado). Wednesday-Sunday, 11pm-3.30am. [www.copolaclub.com](http://www.copolaclub.com)**

Funky disco-bar with jazz, soul, pop and chill house upstairs and electronica and techno downstairs. Test out your dj skills on weeknights. €

**MARULA CAFÉ, c/Caños Viejos, 3 (Metro: La Latina). Tues-Sun, 10.30pm-close.**

Come and get your funk on at the palace of funk, also known as Marula Café. There's a great jam session on Monday nights that attracts a bohemian crowd. €

**TUPPERWARE, c/Corredera Alto de San Pablo, 26 (Metro: Tribunal). Wed-Sun, 9.30pm-3am.** Super-kitsch design and a pop and indie vibe gets everyone dancing. €

**TOP OF THE POPS, c/Sagasta, 22 (Metro: Alonso Martínez/Bilbao) Thurs,**



**10pm-3am.** Resident DJ Maicol Da Lowa and Sara Ñiguez Rubia playing the best 60s psychedelia, 70s glam rock, groove, west coast and soul . . . and it's free to get in! €

**SUPERSONIC, c/Melendez Valdés, 25 (Metro: Argüelles). Thurs-Sat. 9.30am-3am.** The best indie in town. Worth seeing what the fuss is about. €

## Commercial music venues

**PALACIO GAVIRIA, c/Arenal, 9 (Metro: Sol/Ópera). Daily, midnight-6am.** A truly stunning palace-cum-disco with different music in every room, and international nights on Thursdays. €€

**KAPITAL, c/Atocha, 125 (Metro: Atocha). Fri-Sat, midnight-6am.** This seven-floor macro-club is over the top, and plays everything from house to hip hop to Spanish pop. Worth going just to see the décor! €€€

## Dance music

**SPACE OF SOUND, PI Estación de Chamartín (Metro: Chamartín). Sun, 4pm-midnight.** All-day parties on the roof of the station with laser shows,

go-go dancers and more . . . the ultimate party. €€

**DEEP, Sala Changó, c/Luchana semi-esquina c/Covarrubias (Metro: Bilbao). Fri, midnight-6am.** JL Magoya and Juan Sanchez spinning the best deep house in Madrid, with Stardust as a guest once every month. €€

**MONDO, Sala Stella, c/Ariabán, 7 (Metro: Sevilla). Thurs and Sat, midnight-6am. [www.web-mondo.com](http://www.web-mondo.com)** This is a special treat for all you electro, new wave and funk lovers out there. It's been going for seven years and has a big following. Don't be the only one to miss it! €€

**OHM, Plaza Callao, 4 (Metro: Callao). Fri and Sat, midnight-6am.** Great house djs, great people and a great vibe. Don't miss their parties on Sundays called Weekend which features funky house. This place was once exclusive to the gay crowd, but its party vibe became so famous that now everyone is scrambling to get in. €€

**FREE, Sala Ya'sta, c/Valverde, 10 (Metro: Gran Vía). Fri, 1am-6.30am.** Old, industrial-like venue to party to techno. €

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**abril**

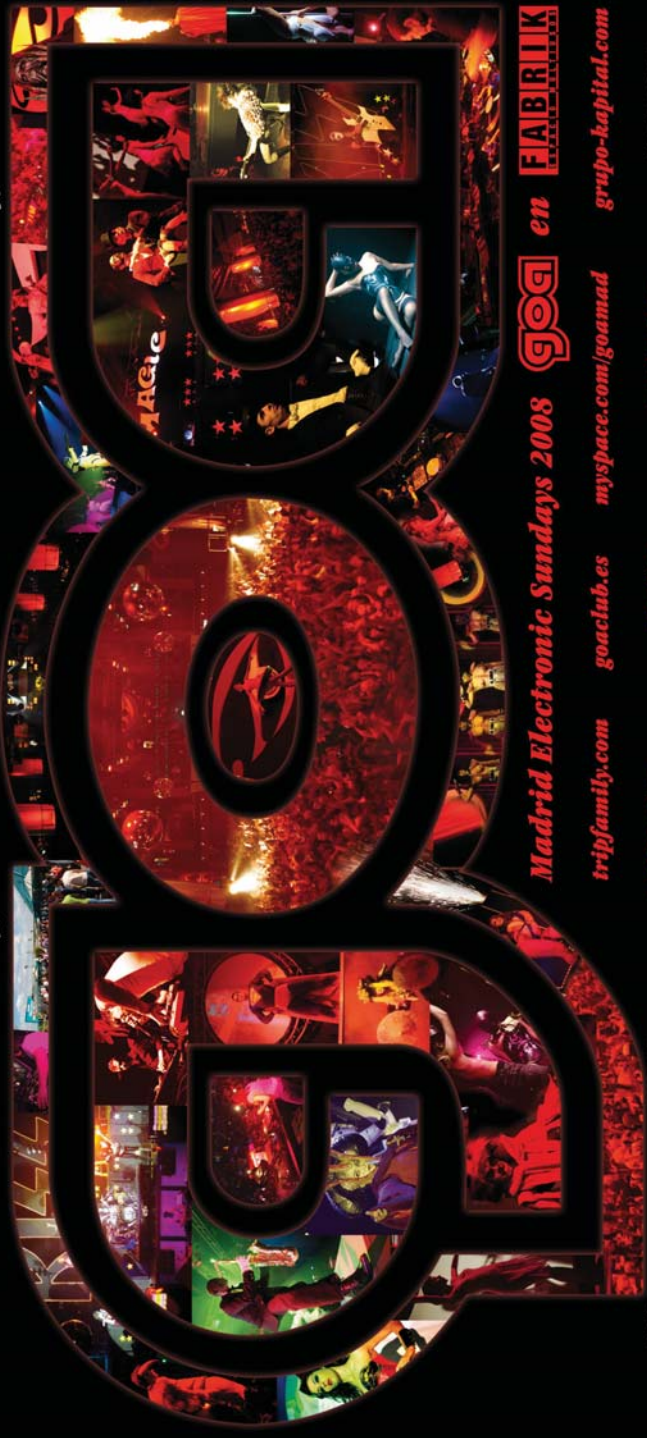
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**Madrid Electronic Sundays 2008** **GOA** **en** **FABRIK**

[tripsfamily.com](http://tripsfamily.com) [goaclub.es](http://goaclub.es) [myspace.com/goamad](http://myspace.com/goamad) [grupo-kapital.com](http://grupo-kapital.com)

**julio**

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**septiembre**

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**noviembre**

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**diciembre**

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# I'M NOT PAYING FOR THAT!

## How to live *gratis* for a week in Madrid

### Monday

Get the week off to a good start with a trip to the Museo Taurino in the Plaza de Las Ventas. Don't miss the chance to explore the historic square while you're there: it was the site of Madrid's famously gory "bull-fight of the century" by Victorino Martín in 1982. **Museo Taurino, c/Alcalá, 237, tel: 91 725 18 57 (Metro: Ventas). Open: Nov-Feb, Mon-Fri, 9.30am-2.30pm; Mar-Oct, Tues-Fri, 9.30am-2.30pm.**

### Tuesday

Visit Príncipe Pío and indulge your cultured side with a visit to the Glorieta de San Antonio de la Florida, where you will find a beautiful fresco by Goya and the tomb of the man himself. Next, hook up to the internet and have a look at Fnac's online Culture Club to find an array of evening activities in stores throughout Madrid such as book signings to film screenings and poetry readings and comedy. **Panteón de Goya, Glorieta de San Antonio de la Florida, Paseo de la Florida, s/n (Metro: Príncipe Pío). Open: Tues-Fri, 9.30am-8pm; Sat-Sun, 10am-2pm. Open: Mon-Sat, 10am-10pm; Sun, 11am-10pm. Fnac Culture Club: see [www.clubcultura.com/cultura/fnac/agenda.php](http://www.clubcultura.com/cultura/fnac/agenda.php) for more information.**



The Sabatini Gardens

Photos: Sarah Rainey

**and 5.30-9pm. Museo Municipal de Bomberos, c/Boada, 4, tel: 91 478 65 72 (Metro: Portazgo). Open: Mon-Fri, 10am-1.30pm. Madrid Planetarium, Avenida del Planetario, 16, tel: 91 467 34 61 (Metro: Méndez Alvaro). Open: Tues-Fri, 9.30am-1.45pm and 5-7.45pm; Sat-Sun, 11am-1.45pm and 5-8.45pm.**

### Thursday

A visit to the Royal Palace itself is free for EU citizens on Wednesdays, but its temporary exhibition halls are permanently *gratis*. The afternoon can be spent relaxing in the adjacent Sabatini Gardens. **Palacio Real, Salas de Exposiciones Temporales, c/Ballén, s/n, tel: 91 454 88 00 (Metro: Ópera). Open: Mon-Sat, 9am-6pm; Sun, 9am-3pm; El Gusto a la Griega runs until 6 Jan 2008. Jardines de Sabatini, as for Palacio Real.**

### Weekend

Why not start your Saturday morning educationally, with a guided tour of Congress? Bring your passport and meet outside the iron gates on calle San Jerónimo at 10.30am — but be prepared to jostle with some hardcore tourists for a place in the 50-person group.

Instil some culture into your Sunday with a visit to either the Prado or the Reina Sofia museums. Take the rest of the day to relax and prepare for another free week! **Guided Tours of the Congreso de los Diputados: email: [gulas.congreso@sgral.congreso.es](mailto:gulas.congreso@sgral.congreso.es) for more details, or tel: 91 390 65 25/26. Tours run on Saturdays, every 30mins from 10.30am-12.30pm. Museo del Prado, c/Ruiz de Alarcón, 23, tel: 91 330 28 00 (Metro: Banco de España). Free Tues-Sat, 6-8pm; Sun, 9am-8pm. Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, c/Santa Isabel, 52, tel: 91 774 10 00 (Metro: Atocha). Free Sat, 2.30-9pm; Sun, 10am-2.30pm.**

■ SARAH RAINY



Take a peek inside for free at Goya's tomb

### Wednesday

Visit the Museum of Contemporary Art for some colourful national paintings, and before lunch trek down to the little-known Municipal Firefighters' Museum. Spend your evening enjoying one of the Planetarium's free exhibitions. **Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, c/Conde Duque, 9, tel: 91 588 59 28 (Metro: San Bernardo). Open: Tues-Sat, 10am-2pm**

Open From Wednesdays to Saturdays

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◇ ARGUELLES

## ad directory (cont.)

### Finbar's

Finbar's is located in the heart of the university quarter of Madrid (Moncloa/Argüelles), giving the bar its international flavour. It's Irish owned and run, decorated with musical instruments and has an ambience of soft lighting. The bar offers a friendly atmosphere in which to chill out and enjoy a cool pint. They cater for most sports, including English League, European Champions League, International Rugby and NFL with live screenings, and have plenty of useful local information available. Drop in and you'll feel at home. Up to 20% off prices before 7pm, including weekends.

**Finbar's, c/Marqués de Urquijo, 10, tel: 91 548 37 93 (50m from metro: Argüelles). Open every day. [www.finbarsmadrid.com](http://www.finbarsmadrid.com). (See ad p25)**

### Goa

Goa is an unmissable monthly date for all electronic- and dance-music lovers. One Sunday a month, from midday to midnight, thousands of dance addicts from all over Spain congregate in Madrid to party all day long. With a huge terrace in an

immense warehouse, the three dance floors have borne witness to djs straight from the hall of fame of electronic music worldwide: James Holden, Satoshi Tomiie, Michael Mayer, Ivan Smagghie, Aril Brikha, Damian Lazarus, Rob Mello, UR, Octave One, Ascii Disko, Jef K, Josh Wink, Sander Klinenberg, Tim Paris, Dan Bell and Marco Passarani. Goa is a must!

**GOA, Sala Fabrik, Avda de la Industria, 82, Carretera Fuenlabrada-Moraleja de en Medio, km 3.5, Humanes de Madrid. [www.tripfamily.com](http://www.tripfamily.com). (See ad p24)**

### Triskel Tavern

Triskel Tavern opened in September 1994 and quickly became a favourite haunt for an international clientele in the popular Malasaña area. The tavern offers a selection of imported beers and Irish and Scottish whiskies in a charming, rustic, Celtic setting. After enjoying the main bar, check out The Tap Room, an enchanting cavern bar with live music, big-screen sports, promotions and party nights. There is also a varied brunch menu at the weekend.

# ad directory (cont.)

For music, sport, a good night out, or just a great pint, Triskel will become a firm favourite.

**Triskel Tavern, c/San Vicente Ferrer, 3, tel: 91 523 27 83 (Metro: Tribunal). Open: Mon-Fri, 6pm-sunrise; Sat-Sun, 1pm-sunrise. (See ad p4)**

## Supersonic

Supersonic is the place to go if you're in search of the best indie, Britpop, new wave, and 80s music that Madrid has to offer. With old copies of Melody Maker on the walls, and all of your favourite guitar-based hits on the decks, it's just like being in a British basement circa 1995. They've hosted many great bands including The Charlatans, Kaiser Chiefs, Mando Diao, The Sounds, and more. Great live shows, themed nights and a loud student vibe make it a small oasis to pass your nights in a blur.

**Supersonic, c/Melendes Valdés, 25 (Metro:**

**Arguelles). Open: Weds-Sat, 9pm-3.30am. (See ad p25)**

Madrid (and most of Spain) averages about 250 days (or 2,700 hours) of sunshine per year.

Did you know?

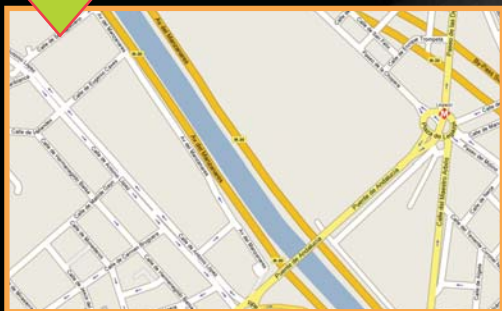
When Lope de Vega was asked his opinion on a new bridge built across the Manzanares, he replied that the town should either buy a river or sell the bridge.

14.6 percent of men aged between 35-49 still live with their parents!

# SALA LULLABY

live rock wed thru sat

American pool & darts



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Rock & Blues Jam Session - musicians welcome

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In Madrid

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