

Contents

Introduction p1

Speak the Culture
books give you the keys
to a nation's culture



1. Identity: the building blocks of Spanish culture p3

- 1.1. **Geography** p5
 - 1.1.1. **The lie of the land** p6
 - 1.1.2. **Local colour:** the *autonomías* of Spain p10
- 1.2. **History** p37
 - 1.2.1. **Caves and conquests:** from the Stone Age to the *Reconquista* p38
 - 1.2.2. **Rise and fall:** kings, *conquistadores* and cultural highs p43
 - 1.2.3. **Ruin to resurrection:** war, dictatorship and democracy in modern Spain p48
- 1.3. **Language and psyche** p55
 - 1.3.1. **Vocal harmonies:** Spain and its languages p56
 - 1.3.2. **Being Spanish:** identity and psyche p60



2. Literature and philosophy p63

- 2.1. **Literature** p65
 - 2.1.1. **Spanish reading habits** p66
 - 2.1.2. **Rising stars:** Seneca, *El Cid* and *La Celestina* p68
 - 2.1.3. **In search of *Don Quixote*:** literature in the Golden Age p72
 - 2.1.4. **In Cervantes' shadow:** from Romantics to Realists p77
 - 2.1.5. **Generation game:** Unamuno, Lorca and Cela p83
 - 2.1.6. **Off the leash:** contemporary Spanish literature p91
- 2.2. **Philosophy** p97
 - 2.2.1. **Think tank:** the big names of Spanish philosophy p98



3. Art and architecture p105

- 3.1. **Art** p107
 - 3.1.1. **Painting the Spanish way** p108
 - 3.1.2. **Going up the walls:** Spanish art from cavemen to cathedrals p110
 - 3.1.3. **Spanish art in the Renaissance** p114
 - 3.1.4. **Naturally gifted:** Baroque era painters p117
 - 3.1.5. **One-man show:** Goya guides Spain toward modernity p123
 - 3.1.6. **Ripping up the rulebook:** Picasso, Dalí and Miró p127
 - 3.1.7. **Pick 'n' mix:** Spanish art since the Civil War p133
- 3.2. **Architecture** p139
 - 3.2.1. **Built to last:** prehistoric and classical structures p140
 - 3.2.2. **How Goths, Asturians and Moors built the Middle Ages** p142
 - 3.2.3. **Reaching for the heavens:** Romanesque and Gothic p147
 - 3.2.4. **Putting on a front:** Renaissance and Baroque p153
 - 3.2.5. **Making waves:** Spanish architecture in the modern era p159
 - 3.2.6. **Home truths:** domestic architecture, living arrangements and planning chaos p165



4. Performing arts p169

- 4.1. **Music** p171
 - 4.1.1. **Folk tales:** the roots of Spanish music p172
 - 4.1.2. **Comeback king:** the story of *flamenco* p176
 - 4.1.3. **Early and classical Spanish music** p181
 - 4.1.4. **Homegrown talent:** the modern music scene p187
- 4.2. **Theatre** p193
 - 4.2.1. **Golden greats:** the age of Spanish drama p194
 - 4.2.2. **Lorca leads the way:** Spanish drama in the modern age p199
 - 4.2.3. **Moving stories:** Spanish dance p206
 - 4.2.4. **Laughing matters:** comedy in modern Spain p210



5. Cinema and fashion p213

- 5.1. **Cinema** p215
 - 5.1.1. **Shooting pains:** the Spanish and their films p216
 - 5.1.2. **Moving with the times:** early adventures in film p218
 - 5.1.3. **Bending the rules:** film under Franco p221
 - 5.1.4. **Film uncut:** modern Spanish cinema p226
- 5.2. **Fashion** p235
 - 5.2.1. **Fashion sense:** designers, costumes and global empires p236



6. Media and communications p241

- 6.1. **Media** p243
 - 6.1.1. **Life off the leash:** newspapers and magazines p244
 - 6.1.2. **Love at first sight:** the Spanish and their TVs p248
 - 6.1.3. **Radio active:** in love with the wireless p251
 - 6.1.4. **Blog off:** getting to grips with new media p253
- 6.2. **Communications** p255
 - 6.2.1. **Making connections:** posting a letter and making a call p256
 - 6.2.2. **Spain on the move:** transport systems and habits p258



7. Food and drink p263

- 7.1. **Food** p265
 - 7.1.1. **Life on the cutting edge:** the Spanish kitchen p266
 - 7.1.2. **Staple diets:** meats, breads and a few veg p270
 - 7.1.3. **Regional flavours:** the different tastes of Spain p272
 - 7.1.4. **Food rituals:** eating habits, festivals and buying food p281
- 7.2. **Drink** p287
 - 7.2.1. **The culture of Spanish wine** p288
 - 7.2.2. **Spanish wine on the map:** the regions p293
 - 7.2.3. **From sangría to horchata:** Spain's other tipples p301
 - 7.2.4. **Drinking habits:** where and when to hit the bottle p304



8. Living culture: the details of modern Spain p307

- 8.1. **The changing face of Spanish society:** class, race, family and gender p310
- 8.2. **Mass appeal:** how Spain takes its religion p315
- 8.3. **Big issues:** politics, the state and the environment p318
- 8.4. **On the money:** the economy, social security and healthcare p324
- 8.5. **Within the law:** crime, courts and the police p328
- 8.6. **Steep learning curve:** education p332
- 8.7. **Time out:** free time, fiestas and holidays p335
- 8.8. **Bulls, balls and baskets:** Spanish sport p339