

# **Maribel's Guide to Seville © -Updates**

## **January, 08**

### **Culinary tours**

Roger Davies' A Question of Taste (aqot.com) offers a variety of culinary tours of various themes in and around Andalucía. A reader has highly recommended his Ham Tour, which she found to be of very high quality and a good value.

“Roger's extensive knowledge of Spain and in particular, the Andalucía region, were exemplified throughout the one day tour. He also has great wit, which made the whole day all the more enjoyable. I wanted to share this information with you in the event you wanted to add this to the next edition of your Seville guide.”

### **Lodging**

#### **La Suite Alcázar**

The owners of the boutique Hotel Casa Romana opened this private villa in the spring as one of the most luxurious accommodation choices in the city. It's wonderfully located between the cathedral and Alcázar on Calle Santo Tomás 1. It consists of a two storey duplex suite with 1 bedroom with twin beds, 1 bedroom with sleep sofa, dressing room, complete bath with tub and separate Jacuzzi shower, kitchen, powder room, panoramic living room and walk out terrace with lovely views of the historic quarter. It offers all the equipment and amenities of a full service, deluxe hotel, including TV, DVD, radio, safe, laundry service, 8 hr. a day butler service and buffet breakfast.. (hotelcasaromana.com)

#### **Corral del Rey**

This stylish retreat is a tiny six room liar, think Moroccan “riad”, tucked away on the cobblestone street of the same name, hidden behind heavily carved Moroccan doors in the old Alfalfa district (just a few blocks from Casa 7). The six uniquely decorated guest rooms are wrapped around a 3 storied arched gallery, complete the original Roman columns. As do most boutique properties in the city, it boasts a rooftop terrace, accessible via marble staircase, with a tiny dip pool and lounge chairs where guests can enjoy breakfast or cocktails. Bedrooms are outfitted with plasma TV with bathroom speakers, Wi-Fi, rainforest showers (no tubs) and fully loaded ipods. Downstairs in the vaulted cellar you'll find a trendy restaurant open continuously during the day and night. This deluxe and pricey retreat is a creation of the owners of the Hacienda San Rafael. Rates range from 280 to 350€, including continental breakfast. (corraldelrey.com)

## **Transportation**

### **To/From Madrid via the high speed AVE**

The Spanish National Railroads, RENFE, has introduced for '08 special Web fares, deeply discounted (60% off), advanced purchase fares for its high-speed rail lines, including the Madrid-Córdoba-Sevilla AVE line.

These fares are available online at [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es) for ONE WAY purchases only, in TOURIST class and are not available on all dates (Holy Week and April Fair dates are blocked out) or on all departures. They are non-refundable, non-changeable and must be booked 15 days prior to departure.

Another discounted fare, the “Tarifa Estrella” is available for ONE WAY purchases in either tourist or “preferente” (business) class, offering a 40% discount. This fare must be purchased 7 days prior to departure and is only bookable online at [www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es). After the purchase of either fare is made, one receives a printable ticket in pdf format which serves as one’s actual ticket for boarding.