

direct from Andalucía

Spain

NEWSLETTER February 2010
For Immediate Release



- **Andalucía Excites New York**
- **10th Annual Flamenco Festival's Stellar Performances Inspire Tourism to Andalucía, Home of Flamenco**

The Andalucía region of southern Spain warms up New York during February 2010 with its 10th Annual Flamenco Festival, thrilling audiences while inspiring them to visit Andalucía, birthplace of the art of flamenco. "One of the year's biggest dance events in New York City" (*New York Times*), the Festival presents a selection of highly celebrated flamenco artists.

At the NY City Center, the Gala Flamenca themed *Todo Cambia* (Everything Changes) features Pastora Galván, Manuel Liñán, Belén López and Rocio Molina. At the same theater, Seville-born María Pagés, famed for her "extraordinary sinuousness," performs her evocative *Autorretrato* (Self-portrait) with her acclaimed troupe, and dancer-choreographer Rocio Molino from Malaga presents her award-winning *Oro Viejo* (Old Gold).

On stage at the NYU Skirball Center, guitarist José Antonio Rodríguez presents *Córdoba...en el tiempo*, memories of the city of his birth, with dancer Daniel Navarro. Also at the Skirball, dancer Israel Galván performs his innovative creation *La Edad de Oro* (The Golden Age), the essence of flamenco, joined by *cantaor* (singer) Fernando Terremoto and guitarist Alfredo Lagos.

Vocalist Marina Heredia, along with the Chekara Arab-Andalusí Orchestra of Tetuán brilliantly highlight the cultural fusion that created flamenco, onstage at the Town Hall.

The Festival also presents cultural activities – a flamenco photography exhibit, flamenco film screenings and performer roundtable discussions – at the Instituto Cervantes New York. Also during February, productions of the Flamenco Festival tour to Miami, Washington DC, Boston, Vancouver, as well as to London.

Flamenco Festival, an organization directed by Miguel Marín, promotes and showcases flamenco and Spanish artists internationally. The New York Festival is produced in conjunction with World Music Institute. (www.flamencofestival.org)

Flamenco, evolving from centuries of folkloric fusions, flourishes today with amazingly diverse regional genres and styles characteristic of each of Andalucía's eight provinces (whose capital cities bear the same name): Almería, Cádiz, Córdoba, Granada, Huelva, Jaén, Málaga and Sevilla. Flamenco song, dance and guitar, whether onstage or in a local tavern, are prime attractions to experience at the source, especially at festivals and fairs throughout the year.

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Andalucía Excites New York

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Coinciding with the **New York Flamenco Festival**, the **Andalucía Tourist Board** (www.andalucia.org) in conjunction with the **Tourist Office of Spain** (www.spain.info) is conducting a series of events promoting tourism to Andalucía. Visiting dignitaries and marketing executives, together with Andalusian hotel and resort representatives, are hosting seminars, receptions and presentations to the travel industry in New York as well as Boston.

Traveling to and within Andalucía has become increasingly easy. Delta Air Lines resumes its nonstop flights between New York/JFK and Málaga on May 28, with convenient system-wide connections from cities such as Boston, Atlanta, Orlando, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Tourism Director Antonio Martín-Machuca says "Turismo Andaluz is

very pleased and confident with the return of Delta's nonstop flight New York/JFK - Málaga/AGP. This will bring opportunities to show the excellence of Andalucía to the U.S. market". (www.delta.com)

Iberia Airlines offers extensive service from New York, Chicago, Miami, Boston and (resuming March 29) Washington DC nonstop to Madrid with connections to cities in Andalucía. (www.iberia.com)

A transportation milestone in Andalucía is the high-speed AVE (*Alta Velocidad Española*), a state-of-the-art bullet train that travels between Madrid and Málaga in less than 2-1/2 hours (velocity up to 215 mph) with over a dozen departures throughout the day in each direction. Inaugurated in December 2007, it has transported millions of passengers. This Madrid-Málaga route compliments Spain's first

AVE service between Madrid and Seville (with an en-route stop in Córdoba), also a 2-1/2-hour trip, launched with extraordinary success for Seville's Universal Exposition 1992. A growing high-speed train network connects several Andalusian cities such as Málaga, Seville and Cádiz. (www.renfe.com)



Andalucía Birthplace and Inspiration of Extraordinary People

Born in Andalucía

Three Roman Emperors: Trajan, Claudius and Hadrian were born during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD in the then-flourishing Roman City of Itálica. (Don't miss seeing the amazing remains of ancient Itálica just ten minutes north of Seville.)

Enlightened thinkers were born in Córdoba, historically a harmonious multicultural center: Roman philosopher **Seneca** (1st century AD), Arab philosopher-astronomer **Averroes** (12th century), and Jewish philosopher-physician **Maimonides** (12th century).

Rodrigo de Triana, from Seville's colorful Triana quarter, was a seaman aboard Christopher Columbus' discovery voyage from Palos de la Frontera (Huelva). He was the first to see the New World when he shouted "Land ho!" on October 12, 1492.

Explorer **Juan Sebastián Elcano** was the first man to sail around the world, aboard the only surviving ship of the Magellan voyage, returning in 1522 to the Andalusian port of Sanlúcar de Barrameda (Cádiz).

Two of Spain's greatest 17th-century Baroque-era painters were born in Seville: **Diego Velázquez** (1599-1660) and **Bartolomé Murillo** (1617-1682).

Born in Seville, **Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer** (1836-70) was a premier lyric poet of the 19th century.

Ángel Ganivet (1865-1898), born in Granada, was a writer, social philosopher and diplomat considered a precursor to the literati "Generation of 1898".

Manuel de Falla (1876-1946), supreme Spanish classical composer, born in Cádiz and lived 18 prolific years in Granada. He shared his fervor for *flamenco cante hondo* with colleague Federico García Lorca. www.manueldefalla.com

Pablo Picasso (1881-1973), considered the most important artist of the 20th century, was born in Málaga. In the city's historic center, Museo Picasso Málaga is housed in a 16th-century Andalusian-renaissance palace built atop Phoenician, Roman and Arab ruins. www.museopicassomalaga.org

Federico García Lorca (1898-1936), immortal writer, poet and dramatist, also painter, pianist and composer, born in Fuente Vaqueros near the city of Granada. He compiled and preserved a treasured collection of flamenco poems, lyrics and music, a legacy adored and performed today. www.garcia-lorca.org

Rafael Alberti (1902-1999), celebrated poet and painter, born in El Puerto de Santa María (Cádiz).

María Zambrano (1904-1991), philosopher, born in Vélez-Málaga.

Paco de Lucía, astonishing virtuoso flamenco guitarist-composer of our time, born in 1947 in Algeciras (Cádiz).

Lola Flores (1923-1995), lovingly nicknamed "La Faraona", born in Jerez de la Frontera (Cádiz). Singer, dancer, actress, and 20th-century legend.

Carlos Cano (1946-2000) popular Andalusian singer, born in Granada.

Camarón de la Isla (1950-1992), flamenco Gypsy *cantaor* and powerful influence and legend, born in San Fernando (Cádiz).

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Baltasar Garzón, born 1955 in Jaén, and studied in Seville; dynamic and revered judge and Nobel Prize candidate.

Antonio Banderas, award-winning actor, producer, director, born 1960 in Málaga. Joaquín Cortés celebrated flamenco dancer, born in Córdoba, 1969.

Among the great bullfighters: "**Manolete**" (Manuel Rodríguez Sánchez) born in the city of Córdoba (1917); **Antonio Ordoñez**, Ronda (1932-1998); "**El Cordobés**" (Manuel Benítez Pérez), born in Palma del Río, Province of Córdoba (1936).

Rocío Jurado (1944-2006) from coastal Chipiona (Cádiz), a brilliant singer, performing artist and personage lovingly known as *La más grande* (The Greatest).

Inspired in Andalucía

Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406), Tunis-born Arab scholar who settled in Carmona (Seville) where his illustrious 14th-century accomplishments made him a forerunner of modern historiography and economics.

Washington Irving, New York-born author and "travel writer" (1783-1859). You can see his house in Seville's Old Jewish Quarter. From there he went to live in Granada where he wrote *Tales of the Alhambra*.

Gerald Brenan (1894-1987). Renowned author who loved Spain, and especially Málaga where he was buried at his request. *The London Times* acclaimed him as "a brilliant interpreter of Spain to the rest of the world" for his book *South from Granada, a Sojourn in Southern Spain*.

Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961). His life had profound ties with Andalucía, as reflected in *The Sun Also Rises*, *Death in the Afternoon*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and *The Dangerous Summer*.

Orson Welles (1915-1985) Fascinated with Andalucía, especially Ronda and bullfighting, Welles told his friend Antonio Ordoñez, "I would love to have my ashes buried in your well, so my name will be always present in your garden [in Ronda]."

Hugh Thomas (1931-) British author, historian and devotee of Spanish culture. His book *Rivers of Gold: The Rise of the Spanish Empire, from Columbus to Magellan* is praised as "...a grand and sweeping account" (*New York Times*).

Ian Gibson (1939-) Dublin-born biographer, Hispanist, and eminent authority on Lorca, Machado and Dalí. He went to live in Granada.



Andalucía
Spain's second largest Autonomous Community (*Comunidad Autónoma*), covers 87,268 square kilometers (33,964 square miles), with 900 kilometers (560 miles) of privileged coastline along two seas. It comprises eight provinces, each with a capital city of the same name (indicated on above map) including Sevilla which is Andalucía's capital.

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Tour Operators specializing in Andalucía

Participating in joint marketing agreements with the Andalucía Tourist Board, these experts offer appealing, innovative travel selections including motor coach escorted tours, train tours, fly-drive, or independent itineraries. Each company offers a wide selection. For brochures, planning and reservations, contact them or see your travel agent.

Central Holidays
www.centralholidays.com/andalucia
(866) 521-4180

Club ABC Tours
www.clubabc.com
(888) 868-7722

Escapade Vacations
www.isramworld.com
(800) 356-2405

Sun Holidays
www.sunholidaytours.com
(800) 422-8000

Andalucía
www.andalucia.org

ESPAÑA
www.spain.info

Andalucía

Fairs Festivals Fiestas 2010

Plan your trip to coincide with fabulous festivals, fairs and fiestas throughout the year. Here is just a sampling:

XIV Festival de Jerez / 14th Festival of Jerez (Feb 26-Mar 14) Stellar flamenco, workshops, and the city's treasured Andalusian horses. www.festivaldejerez.es

Carnaval de Cádiz / Carnival of Cádiz (Feb. 11-21) Festivities, processions in costume, and ebullient street fairs in this Atlantic seaport city, the oldest in Western Europe. www.carnavaldecadiz.com

Semana Santa / Holy Week (Mar 28-Apr 4) Opulent and dramatic processions everywhere.

Feria de Sevilla / Seville's April Fair (April 20-25) Andalucía's capital city is festooned. Traditionally attired horsemen and women parade, and hundreds of *casetas* (private fiesta pavilions) are sites of *fiestas galore*.

Festival de los Patios Cordobeses / Córdoba Patio Festival (May 5-16) In the old-quarter's narrow streets and white houses, homeowners

proudly compete for the most exquisitely decorated patio. www.patiosdecordoba.net

Romería del Rocío / Rocío Pilgrimage (May 19-24) Since the 15th century, brotherhoods exalting their patron saint, *La Virgen del Rocío*, travel through Doñana National Park (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). Thousands sing and dance flamenco along the way, converging at the shrine of Rocío in the town of Almonte (Huelva).

Feria del Caballo de Jerez / Jerez Horse Fair (May 2-9) Hundreds of hosted *casetas* outshine each other with cuisine and flamenco. Spectacular equestrian parades and competitions, and special performances at the *Real Escuela Andaluza del Arte Ecuestre* (Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art). www.realescuela.org

LVIII Festival Internacional de Música y Danza de Granada / 58th Granada International Festival of Music and Dance (Jun 25-Jul 14) Among Europe's most prestigious, this annual performing arts festival featured a historic *cante jondo* contest in 1922 organized by *granadinos* Manuel de Falla and Federico García Lorca. www.granadafestival.org

Festival de la Guitarra de Córdoba / Córdoba Guitar Festival (Jul 6-25) World acclaimed virtuosos convene to perform and teach all genre: flamenco, classical, jazz, and modern. Concerts, courses and seminars on guitar virtuosity, composition, construction and history. www.guitarracordoba.com

XVI Bienal de Flamenco de Sevilla 2010 (Sept 15-Oct 9) Sevilla radiates during this extraordinary performing arts festival featuring supreme flamenco artistry. (The 2008 festival featured over 70 stage performances.) www.bienal-flamenco.org

Andalucía

Land of Flamenco

Flamenco is as diverse as the cultures that settled in Andalucía over the centuries: Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, as well as Arabs, Jews, Christians, and the nomadic Gypsies from India who made this their land, a place of rich cultural synergy.

Flamenco singing evolved from an amazing fusion of legacies: Jewish psalmodic melodies of the 9th through 15th centuries, Hindu music, as well as Byzantine, Muslim and Mozarabic chants. The six-string flamenco guitar evolved from Eastern instruments.

These elements, assimilated by the Andalusian people, and enhanced by their innate musicality and talent for spontaneous interactive improvisation, gave birth to flamenco, a folk genre of multifaceted rhythms, modulations and tonalities. An amazing variety of styles evolved -- flamenco scholars count 73 -- each characteristic of **Andalucía's eight provinces: Almería, Cádiz, Córdoba, Granada, Huelva, Jaén, Málaga and Sevilla.** (The capital city of each province has the same name as the province.) The earliest written reference to flamenco was by Cervantes in the early 17th century.

Some flamenco art forms, are onomatopoeic: the beat of the blacksmith's anvil created *martinete*; rhythms of different gaits of horse-hoof beats inspired the intricate footwork of *zapateado*. Playful or sentimental songs evolved while picking olives, or during long hauls on horseback.

The feet are percussion instruments with astoundingly complex combinations of heel, toe, ball, and flat. Flamenco's distinctive dance aesthetics of bodyline, movement and stunning poses must be perfect, in fact they seem to transcend human anatomy. Intense interaction between singer (*cantaor*), dancer (*bailaor*), hand-clapper (*palmero*) and guitarist seems telepathic, and artists simulate each other with *jaleo*, spontaneous exclamations of enthusiasm and admiration such as *olé... así se baila*.

Intrinsic in Andalusian lifestyle, flamenco is enjoyed in *tablaos* (flamenco nightclubs with shows), *peñas* (flamenco aficionado clubs and get-togethers), congenial bars with spontaneous performing, traditional Andalusian festivals, theaters, town squares and homes.

Flamenco flourishes today in Andalusian cities and rural towns, many which gave birth to specific flamenco forms and are known for their immortal artistic geniuses and contemporary living maestros. Self-drive itineraries through Andalusian provinces offer memorable experiences of local ambiance, customs and authentic flamenco.

Seville, the capital of Andalucía, was fittingly appointed the first City of Music by UNESCO's Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity in 2006, because "In Seville, music is everywhere and above all engages everyone....It is a place of inspiration for musicians and composers". (This UNESCO recognition is in addition to the organization's declaration in 1987 of Seville's Cathedral, Alcázar and Archivo de Indias together as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.)

Andalucía's supreme flamenco festival held every two years, **La Bienal de Flamenco de Sevilla**, starts the decade with its 16th presentation (September 15-October 9, 2010). Sevilla radiates during this extraordinary three-week performing arts festival featuring stellar flamenco artistry. (The 2008 Bienal featured over 70 stage performances with over 53,000 tickets issued. www.bienal-flamenco.org)

The ingeniously designed **Museo del Baile Flamenco** (Museum of Flamenco Dance) in Seville, housed in an 18th-century Andalusian mansion, exhibits the history and art of flamenco and its immortals and features extraordinary life-size audio-visual projections. Master dance classes develop future talents, and lively introductory classes, open to the public, inspire beginners. www.flamencomuseum.com

The art of flamenco is flourishing, evolving, fashionable, and traveling -- from cobbled streets of quaint Andalusian villages to sophisticated theater stages around the world. ■