

A Perfect Day in Madrid

While the Spanish capital is known for its portico-lined Plaza Mayor, its collections of Goya, Velázquez, and Dalí at Museo del Prado, Museo Reina Sofia, and Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, and the restaurant-lined streets of Barrio de Las Letras, Chueca, and Malasaña, Madrid's treasures aren't limited to the center. Museo Sorolla—the house-museum of Joaquín Sorolla, one of Spain's celebrated painters—is located in the Chamberí barrio of the city and is well worth a visit.

Make a day of your visit to the Sorolla Museum and explore the surrounding areas by beginning with a breakfast at Hotel Santo Mauro on Calle de Zurbano 36. Housed in a mansion that used to belong to the Duke of Santo Mauro, a 19th century noble and an influential member of Madrid's society, the hotel boasts one of the prettiest city gardens. In the summer you can have your breakfast there.

After breakfast, stroll down Zurbano street, named one of [The New York Times' favorite European streets](#). The house where Joaquín Sorolla lived with his family is just a few blocks away, on Paseo del General Martínez Campos, 37. A perfect example of how the Spanish artists, writers, and poets of the early 20th century spent their days, the museum preserves many of the house interiors as well as Sorolla's brushes, palettes, and paints. It also has one of the largest collections of the artist's paintings, many with his signature depiction of the Mediterranean light. Not to be missed are the Andaluz patio and the garden Sorolla designed himself.

Follow the visit with a lunch at Restaurant Ten Con Ten, located in the Salamanca barrio of the city on Calle Ayala 6. A place to spot Spanish celebrities and partake in Asturia-inspired cuisine, Ten Con Ten is almost always full so it's advisable to make a reservation. Keep in mind that in Spain lunch hour usually begins at 2pm and ends at 4pm.

After lunch explore the near-by Serrano Street, home to high-end clothing, shoes, and accessories labels of both Spanish and international fame.

To wrap up the day stop at Platea (Calle de Goya 5-7) for a drink and some tapas. A multi-level culinary and drink emporium Platea used to be a neighborhood movie theater until a 2015 renovation transformed it into a gastronomic nirvana. With a DJ or live music accompaniment this largest-in-Europe gastronomic and entertainment center can keep you eating and drinking well into the early morning hours—much like Madrid and its love for the *buena vida* intended.