

# Melodies of Spain

Music, art & food in Madrid and Barcelona, with KING FM!

CLASSICAL

KING FM 98.1

[www.KING.org](http://www.KING.org)



Palau de la Música Catalana, Barcelona

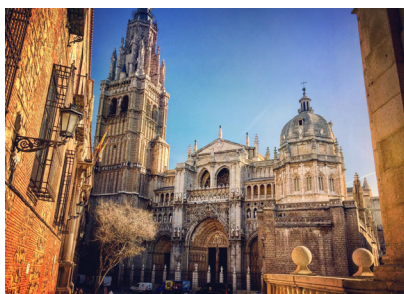
## Beauty and fashion, *flamenco* and *zarzuela*, Picasso and Goya. Revel in the glories of Spain

with KING FM and host Marta Zekan on a tour to the stately capital Madrid and exciting Barcelona, this fall. Musical highlights abound climaxed by a concert performance of Rossini's captivating opera *La Cenerentola* (*Cinderella*) starring the great Cecilia Bartoli in the title role. You will also hear a concert by the London Symphony Orchestra in Madrid, featuring the eminent violinist Christian Tetzlaff; an opera performance at the world-famous Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona; a recital by the Russian pianist Arcadi Volodos, and an exciting evening of fiery *flamenco*!

We visit some of Spain's incomparable museums: the Prado, Reina Sofia, and those dedicated to the great Spanish artists, Picasso and Mirò. Excursions take us to the ancient towns of Toledo and Segovia, Philip II's imposing palace, El Escorial, as well as the home of the great cellist Pablo Casals for a private concert. Great music, great food and Marta's commentary—*Olé!*



Plaza Major, Madrid



Santa Iglesia Catedral Primada, Toledo

**October 15–26, 2018\***

\*Tour begins October 16 in Madrid.



**Marta Zekan** After on-air stints in Denver and San Diego, Marta came to KING FM in 1994. A California native and pianist, she has a music degree from UC San Diego, and an MFA in Voice Training/Speech Coaching. Along the way, she found a happy home in musical theatre, working as a vocal coach, music director, and keyboardist. She visited Barcelona and Granada a few years ago and is especially excited to experience Madrid for the first time, on this KING FM adventure. Her favorite out-of-country trips have been to Japan and Iceland, a memorable month spent driving around France, and she had the pleasure of living in London during her graduate studies.



## Tour Highlights

- Prime tickets to four major performances:
  - ~ Concert performance of Rossini's sparkling comedy, *La Cenerentola*, with Cecilia Bartoli
  - ~ Concert by the London Symphony Orchestra in Madrid
  - ~ Bellini's bel canto masterpiece, *I Puritani*, in Barcelona
  - ~ Recital by the great Russian pianist Arcadi Volodos in Barcelona
- Private concert at the Villa Casals exclusively for the group
- An evening of thrilling flamenco in Madrid
- Excursions to El Escorial, Segovia and Toledo
- Private guided tours of major sites in Madrid, Barcelona, and elsewhere, by expert guides
- Deluxe accommodations in five-star hotels, and fine dining throughout the tour
- First class travel on the AVE, Spain's high-speed train
- Private air-conditioned motorcoach transportation
- Commentary by KING FM's Marta Zekan throughout the trip

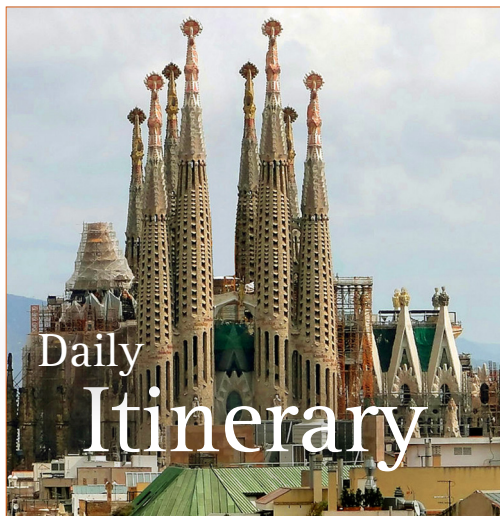


Cecilia Bartoli

**Thank you** for supporting KING FM by traveling with The Grand Tour.

The Spain tour is organized exclusively for KING-FM by The Grand Tour Travel Company of Peterborough, NH.





Sagrada Família, Barcelona

# Daily Itinerary

## Monday, October 15

Group flight on British Airways departs SeaTac Airport for Madrid, via London Heathrow, with arrival the following day.

## Day 1: Tuesday, October 16

### BENVENIDOS!

We arrive in Madrid, with its world class museums, wide and elegant boulevards, and the narrow, winding streets of the old quarter. Under Hapsburg rule and that of Philip II Madrid became the capital of the most powerful empire in Europe in the mid-16th century. Our home for the next five nights is the Hotel Villa Real, a 5-star hotel adorned with ancient sculpture in an ideal central location. Our **gala welcome dinner** in the old town is preceded by a **reception** at the hotel sipping *cava*, the Spanish bubbly.



Madrid Parque del Retiro  
right: Christian Tetzlaff



## Day 2: Wednesday, October 17

### OLD MADRID & THE LSO

After **breakfast** (offered **daily** at both hotels), we set off to explore the old town of the capital, traversing the broad avenues surrounding the Palacio Real, the sumptuous

Guernica, Pablo Picasso

royal seat built in 1738 by Philip V, winding our way through the medieval streets around the 17th century Plaza Mayor, the classical central square. **Lunch** is near the Plaza. In our first musical event of the tour, the London Symphony Orchestra, arguably the best in the UK, visits Madrid for a concert in the Auditorio Nacional. Spanish maestro Jaime Martín leads the orchestra in music by De Falla, Lalo, and the *Firebird* by Stravinsky. Famed violinist Christian Tetzlaff is the soloist in Lalo's *Symphonie espagnole*.



Alcázar, Segovia

## Day 3: Thursday, October 18

### EL ESCORIAL & SEGOVIA

El Escorial, built at the foot of the Guadarrama Mountains by Philip II as a central point from which to rule his vast Bourbon empire, was one of the largest buildings in the world on its completion in 1584. We'll tour the rich but austere palace, with its 16 courtyards and 15 cloisters, view the tombs of Charles V and the emperors who followed him (and that of his son Don Carlo of Schiller and Verdi fame), and the solemn church. Then we travel to the pretty city of Segovia, further northwest, dominated by its spectacular Roman aqueduct, cathedral and fairytale castle, known as the Alcazar, and have **lunch** there. Evening free.

## Day 4: Friday, October 19

### GUERNICA & LAS MENINAS

Madrid is also home to many world-class art museums, all a walk from the hotel. The Reina Sofia is home to perhaps the most significant painting of the 20th century, Picasso's "Guernica," a searing commentary on the Spanish Civil War. **Lunch** follows our tour there. In the afternoon, we visit a world treasure, the Prado Museum, unrivalled for its old master paintings by the great Spanish



artists Velasquez, Goya, and Zurbarán, not to mention the Flemish surrealist Hieronymus Bosch. Evening free.

## Day 5: Saturday, October 20

### TOLEDO & FLAMENCO!

Today we visit the ancient walled city of Toledo, built atop a steep hill bordered on three sides by the River Tagus, and long a prime example of Spain's melting pot of Arab, Christian and Hebrew cultures. We'll visit the Cathedral, Gothic but with decidedly Moorish elements, and through the narrow, medieval streets and ancient churches, seek out masterpieces of Toledo's longtime resident, the painter El Greco. **Lunch** is in the town center. Tonight back in Madrid, we climax our visit in the capital and revel in the swirling dance, plangent voice, and beguiling guitar of *flamenco*, including **dinner**, at one of Madrid's best *tablaos*.



above: Toledo, below : flamenco

## Day 6: Sunday, October 21

### BARCELONA

We bid adios to Madrid and board the high-speed AVE train to Barcelona (with **lunch** en route), one of the most exciting cities in Europe, the capital of the province of Catalonia. Upon arrival, we'll head to the Barri Gòtic, the old Roman center of town, and check in to the five-star Grand Hotel Central near the Cathedral. **Dinner** is at a fine restaurant in the Plaza Real (Royal Square), prior to a performance of Bellini's stirring drama *I Puritani* (The Puritans) at the Gran Teatre del Liceu, one of the best opera houses in the world. This new production is by brilliant Irish director Annilese Miskimmon.



Park Güell, Barcelona



Day 7: Monday, October 22

**GAUDI & SPANISH ART NOUVEAU**

In the morning, our expert local guide takes us for a walk to explore the Barri Gotic's ancient streets, monuments, and market. The great architect Antonio Gaudí, the principal exponent of Barcelona's modernist movement, set the design world on fire at the turn of the 20th century with his buildings of undulating forms, illusionistic exteriors, and surprising design in all media. **Lunch** is in a wonderful building he designed. Then we visit three of his great works: the Park Güell, modeled on English designs, the fabulously-spired church known as the Sagrada Família, and the Casa Milà. Evening free.



above: Villa Casals  
right: Pablo Casals



Day 8: Tuesday,  
October 23

**CASALS**

The great Catalan cellist Pablo Casals originally built his dream house along the seaside of the town of Sant Salvador, El Vendrell, in 1910. He lived in what is now called the Villa Casals until 1939 when he was forced into exile, never to return. Now a museum and foundation dedicated to his life and music, it provides a venue for today's excursion and for a private concert exclusively for the group. A **wine tasting** at the nearby vineyard Augustus Forum precedes **lunch** on the seaside. Your evening is free.

Day 9: Wednesday, October 24

**MIRÓ, PICASSO AND THE PALAU**

Barcelona is the city where Pablo Picasso established himself as a major artist. We tour the Museu Picasso, cobbled together between two Renaissance-era houses, and featuring many early works of the master given to his adopted town. Then we climb the hill of Montjuïc overlooking Barcelona, the scene of the 1992 Olympic Games, and home to the Fundació Miró, a superb collection of painting and sculpture by Joan Miró, Catalonia's most famous artist. Tonight at the spectacular Palau de la Música Catalana, a riot of stunning florid decoration, the fine Russian pianist Arcadi Volodos performs music by Schubert and his compatriots Rachmaninoff and Scriabin.

Day 10: Thursday, October 25

**LA BARTOLI**

A free day in Barcelona for additional sight-seeing, shopping or just strolling the vibrant streets. The beach on the Mediterranean Sea is not far away! This evening our **gala farewell dinner** takes place at the historic El Quatre Gats, a popular meeting place for artists of the Spanish avant-garde, including

Picasso. Back at the Palau, the great mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli sings one of her classic roles, Angelina, the title role in Rossini's brilliant *La Cenerentola* (Cinderella) in a concert performance of the opera. The period orchestra, Les Musiciens du Prince is led by Gianluca Capuano.

Day 11: Friday, October 26

**ADIOS!**

The tour ends after breakfast, with the group flight returning to SeaTac, arriving later in the evening.

*Itinerary subject to change. Meals in **bold** included in the cost of the tour.*

KING FM passengers to Spain will receive an invitation to attend a reception and preview of the tour. Date: Monday, August 13, 2018; Time: 6:00 pm—8:00 pm. **More details to follow!**

Tour Registration

**Tour Cost: \$6,385 per person, ground only, double occupancy**

**Single supplement: \$1,360**

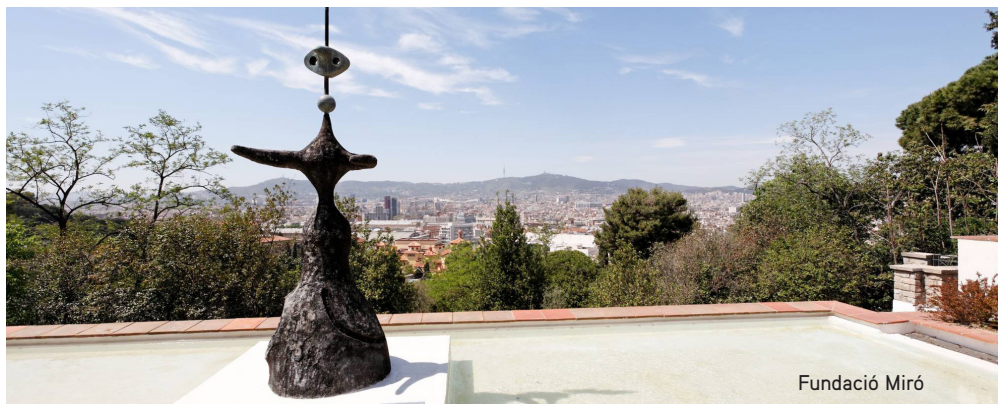
**Group flight:** \$1,255, economy class on British Airways

**Deposit: \$1000 per person first come, first served**

**Balance deadline: Friday, August 10, 2018.** After that date, call for availability.

**Contact** The Grand Tour to reserve your place on the tour with a credit card deposit, or send a check made payable to The Grand Tour for the deposit amount to: KING FM Spain Tour, The Grand Tour, PO Box 274, Peterborough, NH 03458. Registration materials can be downloaded from **www.king.org**

**Questions?** Contact The Grand Tour at 800-727-2995 / info@thegrandtour.com or Maria Drury at KING FM, 206.691.2993 / mariad@king.org



Fundació Miró