**** MARCH 29 - APRIL 9, 2017

Day 1 - On arrival at Madrid airport you will be met by Robin and Paula and transferred to your hotel in the city center.
The remainder of the day is at leisure to rest and relax until early evening when we will have our welcome drink followed by dinner with wine.

Day 2 - Madrid City Tour and Prado. After breakfast we meet the expert local guide for the tour of Madrid when we see the Plaza Espana, the city's main avenues and fountains, and visit the world famous Prado Museum. The rest of the day is at leisure for individual sightseeing, shopping.

Day 3 - Toledo, Escorial and Valley of the Fallen. First we drive to Toledo for a tour which includes the Cathedral, the Church of St Tome, home to a masterpiece of El Greco, the 13th century Synagogue of Santa Maria La Bianca and the Monastery of San Juan de Los Reyes. After free time for lunch we continue on to El Escorial to visit the Habsburgs Palace, including the Kings and Princes mausoleum, the weapons room, also, the Basilica. Lastly we drive to the Valley of the Fallen to visit the Catholic Basilica and the Civil War memorial built by Francisco Franco. We return to Madrid late afternoon.

Day 4 - Córdoba and Seville. After breakfast we head south west from Madrid to Seville stopping en route at Córdoba for a guided tour visiting the famous Cathedral Mosque of the Caliphs, a UNESCO world heritage site. Then we continue to Seville, tonight dinner is in our hotel.

Day 5 - Seville This morning the guided tour of Seville starts with the Gothic cathedral, the largest in the world, with the tomb of Christopher Columbus. We see the tiled fountains in Santa Maria Luisa Park and the imposing Plaza de Espana. Then a visit of the Alcazar, one of the most beautiful Castles in Spain, and the Archive of the Indies, a repository of historic documents recording the exploits of the Spanish Empire in the New World. Our tour concludes with a stroll through Santa Cruz, the old Jewish quarter of the city.

Day 6 ­- Granada via Antequera. After breakfast we are off to Granada, but first visit the town of Antequera and its Alcazaba Fortress. Then on to our hotel in the Moorish city of Granada. After time to relax we drive to the Sacramento neighborhood of Granada for a true Gypsy Flamenco Show with Dinner and of course wine.

Day 7 - Granada, Alhambra and Generalife. This morning a guided tour of the UNESCO world heritage site of the spectacular Moorish Palace Alhambra, initially constructed in the 13th century. Later a palace was constructed on the same grounds under the orders of Charles the fifth, the Holy Roman Emperor. Then we continue to Generalife, with its exotic water gardens, which was the leisure center for the Moorish kings of Granada. We visit the palace gardens and later return to the hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to relax, enjoy the hotels facilities, individual sightseeing or maybe a little shopping!
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Day 8 - Granada to Valencia via Guadix. We leave Granada for Valencia, here in the 'sierras' we stop in the town of Guadix to stroll through the historic centre and see the fascinating Troglodyte cave dwellings, then we continue to Valencia. After check-in at the hotel, time to relax before we drive to a local restaurant for a traditional paella dinner with wine.
 Day 9 - Valencia to Montserrat and Barcelona.
This morning we travel to Barcelona stopping en route at Montserrat. After lunch in a farmhouse restaurant (Vinyanova), we visit the Royal Basilica of Montserrat going up by cog wheel train, and see the famous 12th century Romanesque carving of Virgen Moreneta, the Black Virgin. Then continue to Barcelona, our hotel is just behind the famous La Rambla, we will take an evening orientation stroll along this lively Boulevard.

Day 10 - Barcelona­ City Tour, The Sagrada Familia, Christopher Columbus Monument.
Our expert local guide takes us on a tour of the city including a visit of Parc Guell, the park designed by Antoni Gaudi, with gingerbread houses and statues of fantastic creatures, the Sagrada Familia, Gaudi’s unfinished masterwork , for a guided tour of the interior. We finish with a stroll down La Rambla with free time to explore the famous Boqueria Market, and a walking tour of the Gothic Quarter.

Day 11 - At leisure in Barcelona.
After breakfast, enjoy a full day at leisure to explore this fascinating city at your own pace. Maybe visit museums, stroll again through the market, shop, relax, enjoy!  In the evening we drive to a restaurant on the Bay, to celebrate our fun filled Viva Espana tour with old and new friends, for a special Farewell Dinner with wine.

Day 12 - Sadly we say Hasta la Vista Espana on the drive to the airport for our flights home.