

HALLI TOUR

in association with
MARTIN RANDALL TRAVEL

19-31 May 2015

Decorative Arts of Iberia

Spain & Portugal



MARTIN
RANDALL
TRAVEL

LEADING EXPERTS IN CULTURAL TOURS

Welcome...



Ben Evans, Editor, HALI magazine

Dear HALI Friends,

I am delighted to introduce HALI's first tour in partnership with Martin Randall Travel. The UK-based luxury firm are renowned for their award winning, expert led cultural tours worldwide. We expect this to signal the start of a long lasting association, allowing global exploration in pursuit of the world's best textiles.

Ben Evans

Editor, HALI Publications Limited



Gijs van Hensbergen

I am thrilled to be lecturing on this wonderful Decorative Arts of Iberia tour. The extraordinary quality of textiles and tapestries to be found in Spain range across a thousand years, from Syrian silks, through rare Brussels tapestry series to Goya's gorgeous renditions of Madrileño life. This is a visual feast that cannot fail to surprise.

Gijs van Hensbergen

Art Historian, Author, Lecturer & Tour Guide

During the late Middle Ages, Renaissance and the mythic Golden Age, Spain and Portugal spent almost one tenth of their national wealth on architectural extravagances and the decorative arts. Despite the ravages of wars and internal turmoil, the region still houses a treasure trove of glorious masterpieces. Having divided world trade in 1494 at the Treaty of Tordesillas, the two countries became Europe's front door to the Indies and the New World.

The European Catholic heritage is vividly expressed through many of the Flemish and Spanish tapestries to be seen during the tour (the Netherlands were once part of the Spanish realm). In addition, Spain and Portugal share a rich history of sophisticated Islamic influence. This is seen in a wealth of fabulous Hispano-Moresque silk textiles and woollen carpets.

Madrid's Instituto Valencia de Don Juan houses the 15th-century 'Admiral' carpets, made by Muslim weavers for high officials of the Spanish state. Then there are the rare textile relics of the final years of Nasrid domination of the Iberian Peninsula preserved in Spanish Church treasuries. In Portugal we find two important institutional collections of classical oriental carpets: Persian, Indian, Turkish and Caucasian pieces collected by the Armenian entrepreneur and philanthropist Calouste Gulbenkian, and the extensive holdings of mainly Esfahan carpets, imported from Persia during the 17th and 18th centuries.

The Decorative Arts of Iberia takes a journey from the glimmering tiles of the Manueline Gothic of Portugal to the restrained honey sandstone of Castile and the austerity of the Escorial's cold granite walls. From the Gulbenkian to the Prado we visit some of the greatest museums in the world.

What sets The Decorative Arts of Iberia apart is its focus on works that should be far better known. In Madrid's Museo Lazaro Galdiano sits the bronze feline jug from the legendary kingdom of Tartassus. In Toledo, the rarely exhibited tapestry of *The Astrolabes* has a back story that could make a Hollywood film. In Pastrana in Quixote's La Mancha we encounter the greatest Gothic tapestries, recently restored in Belgium, depicting Alfonso V of Portugal's sacking of Tangiers. From majolica to Meissen, from La Granja glass to the great gazelle vases manufactured for the Nasrid Alhambra, The Decorative Arts of Iberia offers a cornucopia of treasures that is the envy of the world.

Decorative Arts of Iberia - Spain & Portugal



'The level of expertise, for even small fragments, or historical reference was astonishing. The level of knowledge from specialists, dealers, editors and participants was most impressive!'

On HALI Tours: C. Berezuk

'A beautifully organised, thoroughly enjoyable, culturally uplifting and educationally enriching tour: all we had hoped for and so much more!'

On Martin Randall Travel: C. & P. R., Surrey

Itinerary in detail

The tour represents the distillation of more than thirty-five years of HALI articles and the experience gathered through their preparation. A member of the HALI editorial team and a specialist Martin Randall lecturer will accompany the group throughout the tour and will be joined by local guides and curators to provide enlightening commentary.

There is some opportunity for independent exploration at your leisure, with free time in various locations scheduled.



'Vine Scroll' Carpet, Iran, 17th century, Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga

DAY 1: *Tuesday 19 May*

LISBON

ACCOMMODATION: BAIRRO ALTO HOTEL, LISBON

Check-in at the hotel commences at 2.00pm but you may be able to access your room before this time. You will be able to deposit your luggage before check in.

Leave the hotel at 12.45pm for a light lunch

Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga: 15th- and 16th-century Portuguese works of art, textiles and the important 16th century Safavid carpet that once belonged to Queen Catarina of Portugal (see 'Highlights'). All displayed in a beautiful palace.

Dinner is included this evening



Silk fragment, Kashan, 17th century, Museu Calouste Gulbenkian

DAY 2: *Wednesday 20 May*

LISBON

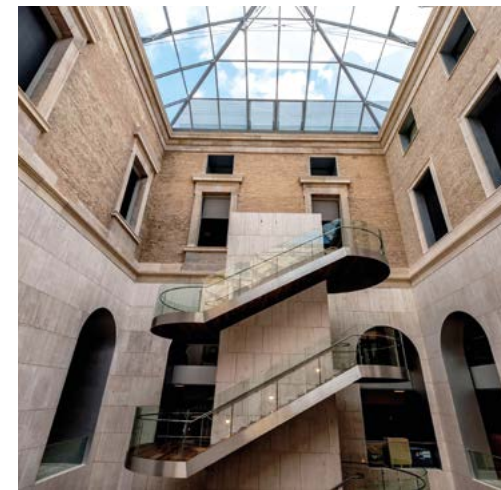
ACCOMMODATION: BAIRRO ALTO HOTEL, LISBON

Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian: an outstanding private art collection of Islamic and European art from the 15th - 20th centuries including the one of Europe's most important classical carpet collections.

Castelo de São Jorge: an Arab castle conquered by the Christians in 1147, embellished over centuries by Portugal's kings, destroyed and now restored.

Sé: the Romanesque cathedral, located in the labyrinthine Alfama. Once fortified, later on much remodelled, it has a fascinating and important archaeological site in its cloister.

Dinner is included this evening



Archaeological Museum, Madrid

DAY 3: *Thursday 21 May*

LISBON & MADRID

ACCOMMODATION: NH PALACIO DE TEPA, MADRID

Fly at c. 11.15am from Lisbon to Madrid (Iberia Airlines)

Archaeological Museum: an introduction to Iberian civilizations and Roman Spain at this recently renovated museum.

Dinner is included this evening



Tapestry on the loom at the Royal Tapestry Factory

DAY 4: *Friday 22 May*

MADRID

ACCOMMODATION: NH PALACIO DE TEPA, MADRID

Royal Tapestry Factory: founded in 1721 by Phillip V with designs by Goya, many of which are still reproduced today.

Royal Palace: built by order of Phillip V, with tapestries and carpets from the 15th to 18th centuries. The visit includes access to areas not normally open to the public and the tapestry storeroom.

San Antonio de la Florida: with beautiful frescoes by Goya.

Dinner takes the form of a tapas walk, with the option to attend a flamenco show



Frescoes in the church at Monasterio de las Descalzas Reales

DAY 5: *Saturday 23 May*

MADRID

ACCOMMODATION: NH PALACIO DE TEPA, MADRID

Museum of Decorative Arts: a collection of some of the best preserved carpets in Spain from Cuenca and Alcaraz, ranging from the 15th to 18th centuries.

Monasterio de las Descalzas Reales: with tapestries woven to designs by Rubens.

The afternoon and evening are free for independent exploration of Madrid and dinner is independent.



Toledo

DAY 6: *Sunday 24 May*

TOLEDO

ACCOMMODATION: NH PALACIO DE TEPA, MADRID

Toledo: crammed onto the crown of a river-girt promontory, the town displays the masonry residue of a greater mix of peoples and civilizations than perhaps any other city in the world.

Mezquita de Bab al-Mamdoun: a mosque dating from 999; one of the earliest surviving examples of Moorish architecture in Spain.

Synagogue of El Tránsito: with impressive Mudéjar decoration.

The church of Santo Tomé: private view of El Greco's *Burial of Count Orgaz*, his greatest work.

Lunch is included today.

Convento de Santo Domingo. El Greco's *Ascension of the Virgin*, displayed in his burial place.

Cathedral: the Gothic cathedral is Spain's largest and the most richly endowed with paintings (El Greco, Velázquez, Titian) and a large collection of tapestries from Europe.



Renaissance tapestry (detail)

Museum of Santa Cruz: A fine Plateresque building, housing the tapestry of *The Astrolabes*, probably produced in Tournai, this is both a perplexing riddle and an esoteric masterpiece.

Return to Madrid for an independent dinner.



Nasrid textile fragment, inv. 1606, Museo Lázaro Galdiano, Madrid



Hanging houses of Cuenca



Tarquino Prisco tapestry (detail), Zamora Cathedral

DAY 7: *Monday 25 May*

MADRID

ACCOMMODATION: NH PALACIO DE TEPA, MADRID

Instituto Valencia de Don Juan: private visit to the museum housing an important collection of Islamic textiles, rugs and tapestries from the 15th-century as well as ceramics and other decorative arts.

Museo Lázaro Galdiano: works by El Greco, Goya and Murillo as well as fine Hispano-Moresque textiles

Museo del Prado: among the world's greatest art galleries, concentrating on the Spanish school.

Dinner is included this evening

DAY 8 *Tuesday 26 May*

PASTRANA & CUENCA

ACCOMMODATION: NH PALACIO DE TEPA, MADRID

Colegiata: some of the finest surviving Gothic tapestries at Pastrana, depicting the conquests in Morocco by Alfonso V, King of Portugal (1432–1481), as featured in HALI 164.

Cuenca: the narrow old town sits high on a narrow ridge bound by rivers, the castle ramparts at the top affording spectacular views.

Cathedral: predominantly Gothic cathedral with Plateresque portals and carved wooden ceilings.

Museo Diocesano de Arte Sacro: With two works by El Greco and an extensive collection of carpets from the Cuenca school of the 16th - 18th centuries.

Museo de Cuenca and the Museum of Spanish Abstract Art of Cuenca: Museum of abstract Spanish art located in an exceptional late fifteenth-century medieval building overlooking the gorge of the River Huécar.

Return to Madrid for an independent dinner



The Conquest of Arzila and Tangier (detail), Collegiate Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción de Pastrana, Guadalajara

DAY 9 *Wednesday 27 May*

ZAMORA & BURGOS

ACCOMMODATION: NH PALACIO DE LA MERCED

Zamora: on the Roman road that connected Astorga to Mérida, Zamora rose to importance during the Reconquista as a bastion on the Duero front. Much of its Romanesque architecture survives.

Cathedral & Museo: Byzantine influenced cathedral and museum containing. The cathedral museum containing 15th- and 16th- century Flemish tapestries, including four from the Trojan War series.

Drive to Burgos, where dinner is included



Pillow cover of Maria de Almenar, circa 1200, Museo de Telas Medievales



Segovia



Fresco detail Church of San Antonio de la Florida, Madrid



El Escorial

DAY 10 *Thursday 28 May*

BURGOS

ACCOMMODATION: NH PALACIO DE LA MERCED

Burgos: spend the morning in the early capital of Castile.

Cathedral: combining French and German Gothic styles with remarkable vaults and 16th-century choir stalls.

Las Huelgas Reales: convent with an important early Gothic church and a museum of exceptional medieval textiles taken from the Royal tombs.

Medina de Pomar: charming medieval town with fine Romanesque churches and the Fortress of the Constables of Castile.

Monasterio de Santa Clara: private visit to the monastery founded in 1313, with a splendid 15th century Alcaraz 'Holbein' carpet.

Return to Burgos, where dinner is independent

DAY 11 *Friday 29 May*

SEPÚLVEDA & SEGOVIA

ACCOMMODATION: HOTEL PALACIO DE SAN FACUNDO

Drive to Segovia, via Sepúlveda.

Sepúlveda: break for refreshments and walk around the charming town whose Romanesque church affords dramatic views of the valley below.

Segovia: built on a steep-sided hill, one of the loveliest cities in Spain and architecturally one of the best endowed. An afternoon walk includes the cathedral, a soaring Gothic structure, and the restored Alcázar (castle), dramatically perched at the prow of the hill. The remarkable Roman aqueduct is one of the biggest in Europe.

Dinner is included this evening

DAY 12 *Saturday 29 May*

SEGOVIA & LA GRANJA DE SAN ILDEFONSO

ACCOMMODATION: HOTEL PALACIO DE SAN FACUNDO

Free morning: suggestions include the contemporary art museum of Esteban Vicente and the Museum of Segovia.

La Granja de San Ildefonso: the palace constructed for Philip V in the early 18th century, with magnificent formal gardens and tapestries, including the Flemish Apocalypse series, The Triumphs of Petrarch and the Honours and Virtues series based on cartoons by Goya.

Dinner is included this evening.

DAY 13 *Sunday 30 May*

EL ESCORIAL

ACCOMMODATION: HOTEL PALACIO DE SAN FACUNDO

El Escorial: this vast retreat-cum-palace-cum-monastery-cum-pantheon built from 1563 to 1584 for Philip II, successfully embodying his instructions for 'nobility without arrogance, majesty without ostentation, severity in the whole'.

The coach continues to the hotel NH Palacio de Tapa, Madrid, arriving c. 2.30pm. It continues to Madrid Barajas airport, arriving c. 3.30pm.

It may be necessary to slightly amend the programme according to local conditions.

Highlights



Safavid animal and tree carpet fragment, Lisbon

This outstanding central Persian 16th century carpet fragment was recognised for its “exceptional importance” when it entered the collection of Lisbon’s Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga in 1912. When exhibited in Chicago in 1926, Arthur Upham Pope declared it “a document so eloquent, so charged with inspiration, so expressive of perfect knowledge, sure and mature, that this piece alone is sufficient to substantiate any claims that have been made that the finest carpets should rank as works of art.” HALI 152



Renaissance tapestries, Pastrana

The six tapestries in the series, *The Conquest of Arzila and Tangier*, are not only a remarkable testament to the skill of Flemish tapestry makers in the late 15th century but speak also of the Portuguese crown’s expansions into Africa and its attempts to find the sea route to India.



‘Large pattern Holbein’ carpet, Burgos

This immaculately preserved 12-medallion Spanish rug at the Convento de Santa Clara in Medina de Pomar combines the influence of Turkish tradition with Iberian design flourishes and techniques such as single loop knotting. Such carpets were in all likelihood made in southern Spain, probably Alcazar, in the second half of the 15th century by Mudejar weavers (Muslims living under Christian rule). The design formula of octagonal medallions with a range of interior ornaments set in squares is typical of the group.



Las Navas de Tolosa Banner, Burgos

An extraordinarily fine tapestry of the Almohad period (1212 – 50) containing Kufic inscriptions from the Qur’an. Said to be a trophy won by St. Ferdinand III of Castile, before it was donated to the Monasterio de Santa María la Real de Huelgas. Described by Francisco Iniguez Almech, who oversaw the banner’s restoration between 1953 – 55, as ‘a unique piece from the oldest period of Arab tapestry... of great interest and value both for its size and richness and for the degree to which colour and design have been preserved.’



Veil of Hisham II, from the Church of Santa Maria del Rivero of San Esteban de Gormaz, province of Soria, Spanish Umayyad period, 976–1013

Colourful streets of Cuenca



Nasrid silk lampas, originally from the Alhambra Palace, Granada, inv. 1694,



Fabulous hotels

The finest hotels have been carefully selected for your pleasure.

Each destination will provide the highest standard of service, food, accommodation and ambience.

HALI and Martin Randall Travel will offer you the ultimate, unforgettable Iberian experience.



DAYS 1 & 2

19-20 May

Hotel Bairro Alto

STAR RATING: ★★★★★

DURATION OF STAY: 2 nights

Attractive 5-star hotel in an excellent location

Location: Praça Luís de Camões 2, 1200-243 Lisbon.
Telephone: +351 21 340 8288

www.bairroaltohotel.com



DAYS 3 – 8

21 - 26 May

NH Palacio de Tropa

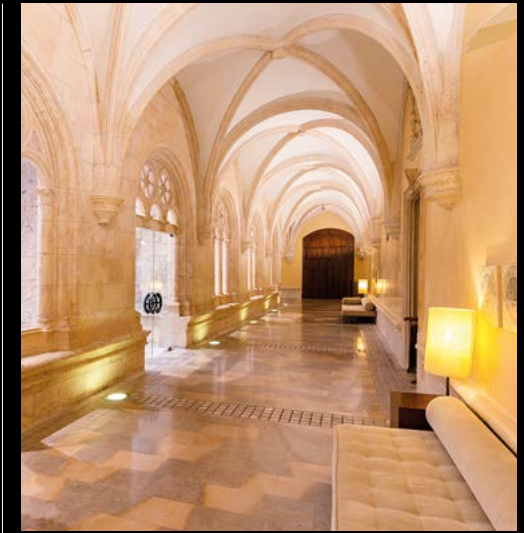
STAR RATING: ★★★★★

DURATION OF STAY: 6 nights

Small and excellently located 5-star hotel with comfortable rooms and contemporary décor

Location: Calle de San Sebastián, 2, 28012 Madrid.
Telephone: +34 913 89 64 90

www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-collection-madrid-palacio-de-tropa



DAYS 9 & 10

27 - 28 May

NH Palacio de Burgos

STAR RATING: ★★★★★

DURATION OF STAY: 2 nights

A smart 4-star hotel in a converted palace with comfortable, richly furnished rooms

Location: Calle de la Merced, 13, 09002 Burgos.
Telephone: +34 947 47 99 00

www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-collection-palacio-de-burgos





DAYS 11 & 12

29 - 30 May

Hotel Palacio de San Facundo

STAR RATING: ★★☆☆

DURATION OF STAY: 2 nights

Centrally located 4-star hotel in a converted 16th century casa-palacio with well-equipped rooms

Location: Plaza San Facundo, 4, Segovia. Telephone: +34 921 463 061

www.hotelpalaciosanfacundo.com



What's included...

An extensive, luxury tour taking in some of the greatest art, architecture, rugs, tapestries and textiles in Spain and Portugal.

Access to museum collections and cultural highlights of the Iberian Peninsula, accompanied by experts throughout.

The tour fee includes:

International flights from Lisbon to Madrid; travel by private coach; 12 nights hotel accommodation; all breakfasts, 8 dinners (including 1 tapas walk) and 2 lunches with wine or beer, soft drinks, water and tea or coffee; all admissions; all tips; all state and airport taxes; the full time services of the lecturer.

Maximum group size 24 including Martin Randall Travel and HALI staff members.

Pricing

£4,200 per person

£730 single supplement

*All prices quoted are for double rooms.

A deposit of **£400** per person is due upon booking, the balance must be paid by 17 March 2015. Single supplement £730 (double for single occupancy).

The tour terms & conditions:

A copy of the full terms & conditions can be seen on the Martin Randall Travel booking form.

For further information or to request a booking form please contact: rachel.meek@hali.com

It may be necessary to amend slightly the programme according to local conditions (traffic, etc.).

Insurance and travel costs to Lisbon and on from Madrid are not included.

Lecturer

Gijs van Hensbergen. Art historian and author specialising in Spain and the USA. His books include *Gaudí*, *In the Kitchens of Castile* and *Guernica* and he has published in the Burlington Magazine and Wall Street Journal. He read languages at Utrecht University and Art History at the Courtauld Institute, and undertook postgraduate studies in American art of the 1960s. He has worked in England, the USA and Spain as exhibitions organiser, TV researcher and critic.

How strenuous?

This is a long tour with a lot of walking in town centres, some of it on cobbled streets and uphill. It should not be undertaken by anyone who has difficulty with everyday walking and stairclimbing. A certain level of fitness is a requirement for participation, these can be seen on the Martin Randall Travel booking form.

Average distance by coach per day: 73 miles.

Dinners tend to be at 8.30 or 9.00pm in Spain.



HALI

For additional information, please contact:

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