

La Latina & Lavapiés

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Moving from bar to bar ordering wine and tapas along **Calle de la Cava Baja** (p74), one of the world's great culinary streets.
- 2 Looking for Goya under the fourth-largest church dome in the world at the **Basílica de San Francisco El Grande** (p70).
- 3 Joining the local crowds on Sunday mornings for **El Rastro** (p72), one of Europe's busiest flea markets and a Madrid institution.
- 4 Getting to the heart of medieval Madrid in the delightfully sloping **Plaza de la Paja** (p71), the gateway to Madrid's Moorish Quarter, La Morería.
- 5 Letting flamenco fill your soul with a live performance at **Corral de la Morería** (p80).



For more detail of this area see Map p235 and p236 ➔

Explore: La Latina & Lavapiés

La Latina's proximity to Plaza Mayor and the downtown area make it an easy area to dip into. Need a break nursing a mojito on a warm afternoon? Head for Plaza de la Paja and linger for as much time as you can spare. Eager to understand the buzz surrounding tapas and the local passion for going on a tapas crawl? Most evenings of the week are busy along Calle de la Cava Baja, but early Sunday lunchtime when the Rastro crowds pour into La Latina is when you'll most appreciate being here.

With few sights to speak of, Lavapiés is a good place for an afternoon stroll or an evening spent catching the sights and sounds of Madrid's most multicultural corner. Access to Lavapiés is either a steep downhill walk from La Latina or an easy stroll along Calle de Arguñosa from near the lower end of the Paseo del Prado.

Belonging to and connecting both neighbourhoods is El Rastro, which centres on Calle de la Ribera de los Curtidores. Quiet and really rather pretty for six days of the week, it gets overwhelmed on Sundays when market stalls spill out onto the surrounding streets. To make the most of your El Rastro experience, get here early to avoid the crowds, or stay long enough to join the post-market dispersal into La Latina's tapas bars.

Local Life

- ➔ **Hang out** On Sunday afternoons after El Rastro's clamour has faded and the tapas crowds are thinning, head for the Plaza de la Puerta de Moros for an infectious street party.
- ➔ **Mojitos** Many people in Madrid reckon the mojitos at Delic (p78) are the city's best. The other half of the population might just vote for Taberna Chica (p79), just around the corner. Why not try both?
- ➔ **Local tradition** In Madrid 1pm Sunday is *la hora del vermut* (vermouth hour), when friends and families head out for a quick aperitif before Sunday lunch. Calle de la Cava Baja is the epicentre of this long-standing, civilised tradition.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** Unless you're walking from Plaza Mayor (an easy, agreeable stroll), La Latina metro station (line 5) is the best metro station both for the tapas bars of La Latina and El Rastro; Tirso de Molina station (line 1) is also OK.
- ➔ **Metro** If you're only visiting Lavapiés or don't mind a steep uphill climb to La Latina, Lavapiés station (line 3) is your best bet.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you can't stomach an entire meal of *cocido* (meat-and-chickpea stew), or if you just want to see what all the fuss is about, head to Malacatín (p74) where the *degustación de cocido* (taste of *cocido*; €5) at the bar is a great way to try Madrid's favourite dish without going all the way – although locals might say it's a bit like smoking without inhaling.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Casa Lucio (p76)
- ➔ Taberna Matritum (p74)
- ➔ Txirimiri (p77)
- ➔ Juana La Loca (p77)
- ➔ Almendro 13 (p77)
- ➔ Posada de la Villa (p77)

For reviews, see p74 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Delic (p78)
- ➔ Taberna Tempranillo (p78)
- ➔ Gau&Café (p78)
- ➔ Café del Nuncio (p79)
- ➔ El Eucalipto (p79)
- ➔ El Viajero (p79)

For reviews, see p78 ➔

Best Churches

- ➔ Basílica de San Francisco El Grande (p70)
- ➔ Iglesia de San Andrés (p71)
- ➔ Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Buen Consejo (p73)
- ➔ Capilla del Obispo (p71)

For reviews, see p70 ➔