

It's Madrid Art Week, one of the biggest cultural events of the year!

It's Madrid Art Week, one of the biggest cultural events of the year. And I've come to break down some of the major art fairs happening this weekend for you.

Here are six incredible art shows in Madrid that you should definitely check out:

1. [ARCO Madrid](#)



image from ifema.es

First up is the big one, ARCO Madrid. ARCO is open to the public on Friday 1st to Sunday March 3rd at IFEMA from 12–20:00. I have never been to ARCO but it's the biggest art fair hosted by the city with work exhibited from over 200

galleries from 30 countries. You can see a wide range of art, including video art, installations, drawing, photography, giant sculptures of the Spanish King and more.

The invited country this year is Peru. General entry is €40 euros on Friday and Saturday, but €30 on Sunday. However, if you're a student, you can get in for €20 any day.

[More info on ARCO Madrid](#)

2. [Art Madrid](#)



image from [Art Madrid on Facebook](#)

Another major art fair is [Art Madrid](#) which is taking place this year at the Crystal Gallery in Cibeles. This fair is open to the public from Wednesday February 27th to Sunday March 3rd. This year the focus of the fair is on video art so if this is something that you've wanted to get into for awhile, now is the perfect time!

General entrance is €15 but there is a reduced price of €12 for students, pensioners and unemployed people.

[More info on Art Madrid](#)

3. [JUST MAD](#)

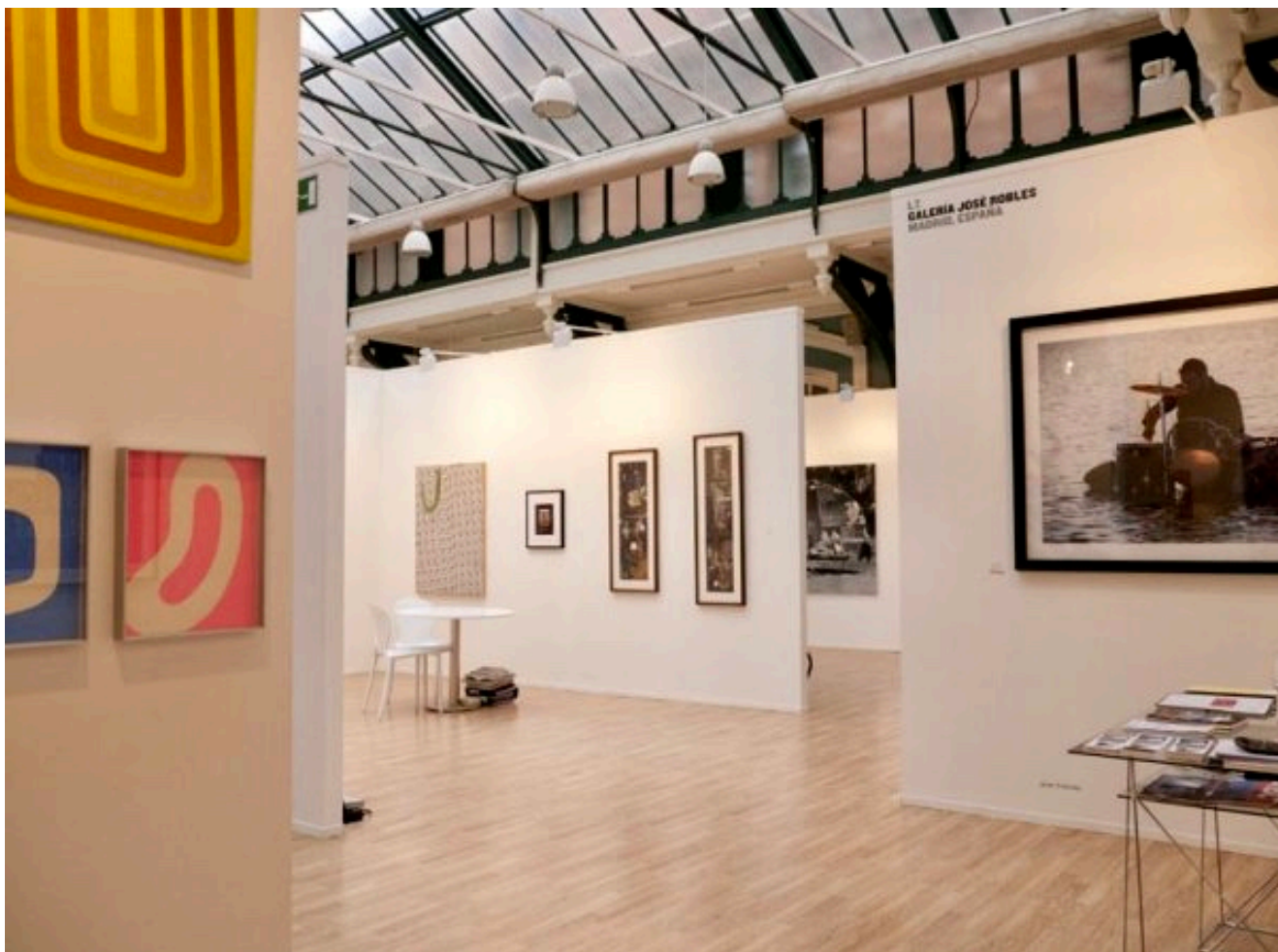


image from [Just Mad on Facebook](#)

My personal favourite art fair is JUST MAD which has moved to the Palacio de Neptuno this year. I've been to JUST MAD two years in a row and I always really enjoy the selection of art on offer. It often has a wonderful group of paintings and photography. While it's not as big as ARCO, it's still fairly sizeable and I would recommend dedicating at least 2 or 3 hours to be able to see everything.

In an attempt to strengthen ties with their closest neighbour, Portugal is being featured at the fair this year. Just Mad is

open to the public from Wednesday 26th to Sunday 3rd. General entry is €15 but it goes down to just €7 for students, pensioners and the unemployed, making it the most affordable one if you're on a student visa.

[More info on Just Madrid](#)

4. [Drawing Room](#)



Image from [Drawing Room on Facebook](#)

Another art fair that I usually try to attend is [Drawing Room](#), which, as its name suggests, primarily highlights works of illustration. I'm always impressed by the selection of pieces I have seen there and it's one of the smaller events so if you don't think you could spend a whole day or several hours at an art fair, Drawing Room would probably be more to your liking.

This year Drawing Room takes place at the Palacio de Santa Barbara and it's open to the public from this Thursday to

Sunday. Tickets cost €10 but are half price for anyone under 18 or over 65.

[More info on Drawing Room](#)

5. [Urvanity Art Fair](#)



art installation on Calle Fuencarral by German artist 1010

You may have seen some of the urban art installations that are taking the centre by storm right now like the cat in Callao or the colorful forms on Calle Fuencarral. Well, those installations are part of the [Urvanity Art Fair](#). If you want really contemporary, cutting-edge work, this is the fair for you. It's celebrating just its third edition this year and showcases post graffiti, new pop art and surrealist pop. If you have no idea what any of those words mean, no worries. Go to the fair and find out!

Urvanity takes place at [COAM](#) this year and it is open to the public from Friday to Sunday. Tickets cost just €10.

[More info on Urvanity](#)

6. [Hybrid Art Fair](#)



Image from [Hybrid Art Fair on Facebook](#)

Finally, I'm going to wrap this up with [HYBRID Art Fair](#) which also takes place from Friday to Sunday. If you like your art provocative and genre-bending, then this is the fair for you. To make it even cooler and more intimate, it actually takes place inside a hotel, the Hotel Petit Palace Santa Barbara. If you're going to Hybrid, I highly suggest buying your tickets online in advance as it's a bit cheaper and if you want to go to more than one of these fairs, every bit counts!

[More info on Hybrid Art Fair](#)

So if you've got a puente this weekend and you're not traveling, don't feel bad! There's so much for you to do in the city thanks to Madrid Art Week! You'll need Monday off to recover. Enjoy!

By Kristen Wiltshire, admin of the Facebook group [Madrid Art and Culture](#)

10 Great Second-hand and Vintage Shops in Madrid

Fed up of queues in Primark, everyone having the same dress from Zara, and the unsustainable waste produced by fast fashion? Ditch the high-street chains and get ready to rummage! From cheap and cheerful thrift shops to high-end boutiques, there's something for everyone when it comes to second-hand and vintage shops in Madrid.

1. Vintalogy



- [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Website](#)
- Address: Calle de Atocha, 10
- Opening Hours: 11am-10pm every day

A good place to start is Vintalogy, Europe's largest vintage store, set up by the team behind the [Mercado de Motores](#). Forget delving into bargain bins; think of Vintalogy as a vintage department store. They make the most of the huge floor space and high ceilings with great merchandising, making it easy to find what you're looking for. The clothes are divided neatly into sections, and sizes are easy to find. If you fancy a splurge, there is also a separate room for luxury and designer clothing, all in mint condition and, like the rest of the store, beautifully presented.

The shop building is emblematic. Vintalogy replaced the historic cloth shop Sobrino de J. Martí Prats and the original

signage has been preserved, in keeping with the philosophy of repurposing, reusing, and rediscovering gems from past eras. As you might have guessed from the late opening hours, **they often host events and DJs.**

2. La Mona Checa Vintage Market and Art



- [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Website](#)
- Address: Calle Velarde, 2
- Opening Hours: 11:30am-9pm Mon-Sat; 11:30am-3pm/4pm-9pm Sun

La Mona Checa is a cute boutique (with an equally cute name) on Calle Velarde, a mecca for vintage shoppers in Madrid. Thanks to its bright sign and distinctive monkey logo, you can't miss it walking past. Once inside, you could be at the circus, thanks to the quirky red-and-white, striped, fabric

that decorates the ceiling, like the inside of a tent. They have a great selection of brightly-patterned shirts for men and women, some great party dresses, and sunglasses of all shapes and sizes (I even managed to find a pair to fit my tiny head).

3. Malasaña Vintage Outlet

- Address: Calle San Vicente Ferrer, 39
- Opening Hours: 12pm-3pm/5pm-8pm Mon-Sat

If you're looking for a bargain, this is your place. This outlet stocks clothes from La Mona Checa and Biba Vintage, all at up to 70% off. It's a true, no-frills, thrift shop experience, with no changing rooms and clothes racks full of stock. But it's not hard to find something you'll like. I walked out with two shirts and a skirt for under €10.

4. Magpie



- [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Website](#)

- Address: Calle Velarde, 3 and Calle Manuela Malasaña, 19
- Opening Hours: 11:30am-9pm Mon-Sat; 12pm-9pm Sun

With a cavernous space on Calle Velarde and a small, newly-opened shop on Calle Manuela de Malasaña, Magpie Vintage has all the clothes you could wish for. There is an extensive range of both men's and women's clothing, everything from jeans and sportswear to sequinned mini-dresses and floor-length evening gowns. I also love the range of accessories and jewellery. The prices are more than reasonable, with most items a bit less than they would be in your average high-street shop.

5. Heritage and Rare

- [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Website](#)
- Address: Calle del Pez, 36
- Opening Hours: 11am-3pm/5pm-9pm Mon-Sat; 12pm-2pm Sun

One for the vintage purists, Heritage and Rare stands out for its beautiful, authentic, and well-cared-for vintage pieces. All items carry a label specifying the country and decade they were made in. From delicate Italian lingerie to heavy wool coats, everything is in perfect condition and shows no signs of use. A lot of the stock has never been used, having been rescued after shop closures. The shop is small but manages to squeeze in a good selection of men's and women's clothes, including shoes and bags.

6. Alphaville



- [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)
- Address: Calle Velarde, 7 y 16 and Calle del León, 29
- Opening Hours: 11am-9pm every day

Alphaville has several locations, with two shops on Calle Velarde and another on Calle del Leon. On Calle Velarde, one shop is dedicated solely to vintage sportswear and the other has a bit of everything. Good for winter coats and shoes, my favourite of the three is the shop on Calle del Leon. With its cosy atmosphere and retro furniture, I sometimes feel like I'm shopping in someone's living room.

7. Humana, Malasaña

- [Website](#)
- Address: Calle de la Corredera Baja de San Pablo, 23
- Opening Hours: 10am-pm every day

Bear with me on this one... With shops across the country, Humana is the biggest second-hand chain in Spain, but it doesn't have a reputation for being the most stylish. Think Humana and you're more likely to be picturing frumpy

throwaways than quirky vintage finds.

However, the Malasaña branch, on Calle de la Corredera Baja de San Pablo, has a carefully selected collection. There is a mix of good-quality, on-trend, high-street items, and vintage stock. It's well worth a browse, whether you want to pick up some of last season's fashion at a fraction of the price or a more individual vintage piece. They get new stock regularly, as **the best items from the other branches are brought here**. The last time I went, there was even a vintage wedding dress!

8. El Rincón de Tía Jo





- [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Website](#)
- Address: Calle Velarde, 4
- Opening Hours: 12pm-3pm/4pm-9pm Mon-Thurs; 12pm-9pm Fri-Sat; 1pm-9pm Sun

El Rincón de Tia Jo is my favourite second-hand shop on Calle Velarde. It seems like a little, narrow shop but is much bigger once you get inside. With a distinctly less hipster vibe than the other shops on this street, the best vintage stock tends to be in the room right at the back. In another small room, they have vintage furniture and knick-knacks. The selection of coats is great; I bought my beloved, black, fake-fur jacket here. Most importantly, the staff are friendly, helpful, and always give good advice about what suits you.

9. The Loop



- [Facebook](#), [Website](#)
- Address: Calle Velarde, 1
- Opening Hours: 11:30am-9pm Mon-Sat; 11:30am-3pm/4pm-8:30 Sun

Banish thoughts of rifling through musty cast-offs. The Loop's tagline is "Fresh Vintage for Fresh People." Though "Fresh Vintage" is a bit of an oxymoron, I think they mean that all their vintage clothes are on trend, in good condition, and clean. The stock is well selected, with well-known brands like Moschino, Armani, Valentino, Calvin Klein, and Levi's. The shop is bright, modern, and feels more like a quirky designer boutique than a thrift store.

10. Johnny and Velvet



- [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)
- Address: Calle Embajadores, 42
- Opening Hours: 11am-2pm/5:30pm-9pm Tues-Sat; 11am-4pm Sun

Johnny and Velvet, named after the owner's two greyhounds, is perfect if you want to pick up some €20 Levi's jeans. It's a bit away from the main hub of vintage shops in Madrid, located south of the centre on Calle Embajadores, making it a good choice if you don't feel like facing the bustle of Malasaña. The clothes are quirky, original, and reasonably priced.

By **Ellen Fouweather** (*Instagram: [@efouwee](#)*)

Know any other great second-hand and vintage shops in Madrid? If so, let us know!

5 Work-friendly Cafes with Great Wi-Fi in Madrid

While setting up a home office in a café is typically not part of Madrid's culture, there is a large population of international people and students living here who enjoy finding places where they can spend hours on end with their laptops.

As there is an abundance of quaint, work-friendly cafés in the city, the struggle primarily lies in finding one with strong Wi-Fi. So here's a list of lovely cafes with great Wi-Fi in Madrid. They all boast a comfortable working space and delicious coffee beverages to help you get your work done!

[Lolina Vintage Café](#)



As its name suggests, this cozy café will instantly make you feel as though you've stepped back in time. Its vintage décor, comfortable sofas, and lamps create a comfortable, cozy atmosphere that invites all to sit and do work. There is an upstairs and downstairs area, both with plenty of space and tables. The Wi-Fi is provided upon placing your order and is quite strong, almost never fading out. Depending on how crowded the café is, the Wi-Fi may be slightly weaker downstairs. Nevertheless, **Lolina Vintage Café's Wi-Fi is definitely dependable for those who need to work online.**

This café offers a variety of dishes and coffee beverages, including vegan milk for individuals of all dietary restrictions to enjoy. Once you've finished your work, the signature cocktails may be just the post-work treat that you and your friends are looking for.

- *Photo from* [Facebook](#)
- **Address:** Calle del Espíritu Santo, 9
- **Metro:** Tribunal

[HanSo Café](#)



If you prefer to work more so in the “hustle and bustle” of the city, you’ll love the trendy HanSo Café. Located on Calle del Pez, this café is famous for its picture-worthy coffee beverages that taste just as good as they look. While this

café has good Wi-Fi, you may find that it is better suitable for light work assignments, where peace and quiet are not a necessity. With the visually appealing coffee beverages that attracts the crowds, HanSo Café is definitely not a substitute for a library. Nevertheless, if you're looking to switch up your work place, this is a fabulous café to explore both alone and with friends.

- *Photo from* [Facebook](#)
- **Address:** Calle del Pez, 20
- **Metro:** Noviciado

[La Bicicleta](#)



Perhaps you prefer natural light or people watching while you work. If so, you'll love the bar window seating at La Bicicleta that looks over the charming Madrid street and square. If the window seats are taken when you arrive, there are plenty of large tables in the café to spread out and do your work.

You'll find many people working from their laptops in this café, taking advantage of the strong Wi-Fi and top quality 100% Arabic coffee that is offered. If you're in need of a quick pick-me-up meal while working, you may treat yourself to one of La Bicicleta's delicious tapas dishes. Also read our

[previous article about La Bicicleta.](#)

- [Facebook](#)
- **Address:** Plaza de San Ildefonso, 9
- **Metro:** Tribunal

[Café de la Luz](#)



If you're in need of a cozy place that feels as though you're in your own home living room, Café de la Luz may become your new work place of choice. Located on Calle de la Puebla, this charming café offers a couple of tables along the windows, bar seating, comfortable sofas, and a wood-burning stove fireplace. The warm, comfortable atmosphere that this café boasts will surely eliminate any work-related stress you may have. The reliable Wi-Fi connection will also make working a breeze, where you won't have to worry about losing connection at any moment while feeling productive.

- [Facebook](#)
- **Address:** Calle de la Puebla, 8
- **Metro:** Chueca / Gran Vía

[La Colectiva Café](#)



University students will love La Colectiva Café, which offers the same working atmosphere as a campus study center does. Upon entering the café, it may not seem like much, with only a few bench seats and tables. However, if you go downstairs, you will find plenty of space with large tables and comfortable sofas.

Many people choose to work at La Colectiva Café because it is very quiet downstairs, making it quite easy to focus. The strong Wi-Fi allows you to do anything from searching online to enjoying a Netflix study break. While the menu may be

slightly more on the pricey side compared to other cafes, it may be well worth it if you're searching for a work-friendly, comfortable space to complete your tasks.

- [Facebook](#)
- **Address:** Calle Francisco de Rojas, 9
- **Metro:** Bilbao

While there are numerous cafes and quaint locations in Madrid to work at, these five destinations will surely inspire you to get quality work done without the hassle of having to seek out strong Wi-Fi. With this list of cafes, you'll no longer have to worry about arriving to the café, ordering your drink, and setting up your computer, only to discover that the Wi-Fi isn't strong.

Thanks to these work-friendly cafés with great WiFi in Madrid, you can enjoy feeling part of the vibrant city while accomplishing your daily online tasks and treating yourself to delicious coffee beverages!

By Haley Grant

Espacio Cervecerero, Mini Mahou Brewery in Madrid

Mentally bookmarked for more than a couple months, we finally stepped into Espacio Cervecerero Mahou in Alonso Martínez and were not let down. Having no expectations allowed us to be surprised at every turn in this small but compact venue. **It's a little bit brewery and tasting space, a little bit restaurant, a bit gift shop and a bit urban art showroom.**

It's perfect if you've got family or friends visiting or no

plans on any given evening. You'll certainly be surprised by this unusual center of Madrid find. **Did you know Mahou is a family-run business? Or that they made a Stout? And an APA (American Pale Ale)?**



At [Espacio Cervecerero](#) each is served on an individually descriptive coaster for each beer but your “beersommelier”

will tell you all about it anyway. These little details are what makes this place unique. It feels small in square meters but packs a lot.



There are few beers on tap but this allows for more information to be revealed regarding each one. Before you leave, you'll be asked to evaluate what you've tried on one of a few iPads set opposite the bar.



If you go through the graffiti and mirror covered hallway, you'll reach the restaurant. Like myself, you may be distracted by the exposed industrial decor but don't forget to grab a board game to play at your table on your way in if you

like.



You'll find that the menu is limited but gourmet and ideal for tasting a few different plates. Our waitress suggested we try the *ensaladilla rusa* (potato salad) which we did and she was right; it was definitely an elevated take on the typical bar

food.



There are events at the bar which you can join like a guided “micro brewery” tour, a beer tasting for newbies and one for more seasoned beer drinkers – an international workshop in which beers are brought in from Belgium, Central Europe and Great Britain for tasting and learning.

And though there isn't much information on it, there also appears to be a cooking class using, you guessed it, Mahou! However, it isn't clear whether you watch or actually cook.

In the end, we saw Mahou's classier side and we'd definitely go back.

By Caitlin English

Espacio Cervecerero

- [Website](#)
- **Address:** Calle de Génova, 5
- **Metro:** Alonso Martinez, Colon
- **Hours:** Open everyday from 12pm-midnight (closed on Sundays)

You may also like:

- [La Virgen Brewery, worth the trip out to Las Rozas](#)
-

4 Vegetarian and vegan-friendly eateries in Madrid

In the land where *jamón* and *queso manchego* prosper, it may at first seem difficult to survive as a vegan or vegetarian in Madrid. But fear not! Although it is true that Spanish food is typically meat and dairy-based, the city's restaurant scene has changed a lot over recent years. Today, Madrid's world-class vegetarian and vegan-friendly eateries will have individuals with all diets falling in love with Spanish food.

Here are a few Madrid restaurants that all offer delicious vegetarian and vegan-friendly dishes with a Spanish twist!

[Vega](#)



Located on Calle de la Luna, this restaurant prides itself in creating all organic, vegan, homemade dishes for guests to enjoy. Restaurant-goers will love the smoked aubergine tapas or the beetroot and strawberries Gazpacho for appetizers, both

vegan-friendly Spanish favorites. Visitors can enjoy [Vega](#)'s delicious salads, black rice with "squid", "chili con carne", or "Burrata" tapas. What is so special about Vega is their vegan twist on foods and dishes that are commonly enjoyed in Spain by the locals.

- **Image from** [Facebook](#)
- **Address:** Calle Luna 9
- **Metro:** Santo Domingo, Noviciado, Callao

[B13](#)



Enjoy typical Spanish tapas at [B13](#), on Calle de la Ballesta, with their mouthwatering *patatas bravas* (a local favorite), their "calamari", as well as their variety of vegetarian hamburgers. Whether you're in the mood for a Spanish tapas-style meal or want to feast on a delicious hamburger or

sandwich, B13 has what you're craving for your next vegetarian meal.

- Image from [Facebook](#)
- Address: Calle de la Ballesta 13
- Metro: Callao, Gran Vía

[Freedom Cakes](#)



[Freedom Cakes](#), also on Calle de la Luna, is known as the first vegan pastry shop in Madrid. It is truly a wonderful spot to enjoy a quality cup of coffee with any vegan milk that you prefer. Whether it be an iced soy latte during hot summer months or an almond milk cappuccino to warm you up on chilly autumn mornings, you'll love their delicious coffee options. Better yet, pair your coffee with one of their renowned vegan pastries, ranging from freshly baked cakes, cupcakes, muffins,

and cookies, all 100% vegetable-based!

- [Facebook](#)
- **Address:** Calle Luna 14
- **Metro:** Noviciado, Callao

[Sanissimo](#)



Last, but certainly not least, Sanissimo is a wonderful restaurant with a few locations in Madrid, that is pleased to offer an array of vegan and vegetarian dishes. Start your day off on the right foot with one of their juices and smoothies, or perhaps one of their popular bagels. Between their

refreshing fruit bowls, sweet bagel options, and rich pastries, you'll always enjoy starting your day at Sanissimo.

- **Image from** [Facebook](#)
- **Address:** Calle San Vicente Ferrer 28 / Calle Campomanes, 5
- **Metro:** Tribunal, Noviciado / Opera, Santo Domingo

Whether your diet be vegan, vegetarian, meat-based, or fish-based, you'll never have to fear missing out on the spectacular Spanish cuisine that the city of Madrid boasts. Enjoy mouthwatering vegan and vegetarian dishes, but with the same Spanish influence as what the locals are enjoying.

By Haley Grant

You may also like: [Veggie Nirvana at VivaBurger in La Latina](#)

Escape the Madrid Heat in the Mountains of Cercedilla

As someone who considers themselves a 50/50 city girl and mountain lover, I was slightly curious when moving to Madrid about where the hiking enthusiast side of me would find a place in such a massive city. I find that when most people think of Spain, their minds tend to veer more towards flamenco, sangria, paella, medieval villages, and enchanting cities.

To my surprise, the community of Madrid is also home to a vast range of world-class hiking trails. I was excited the other

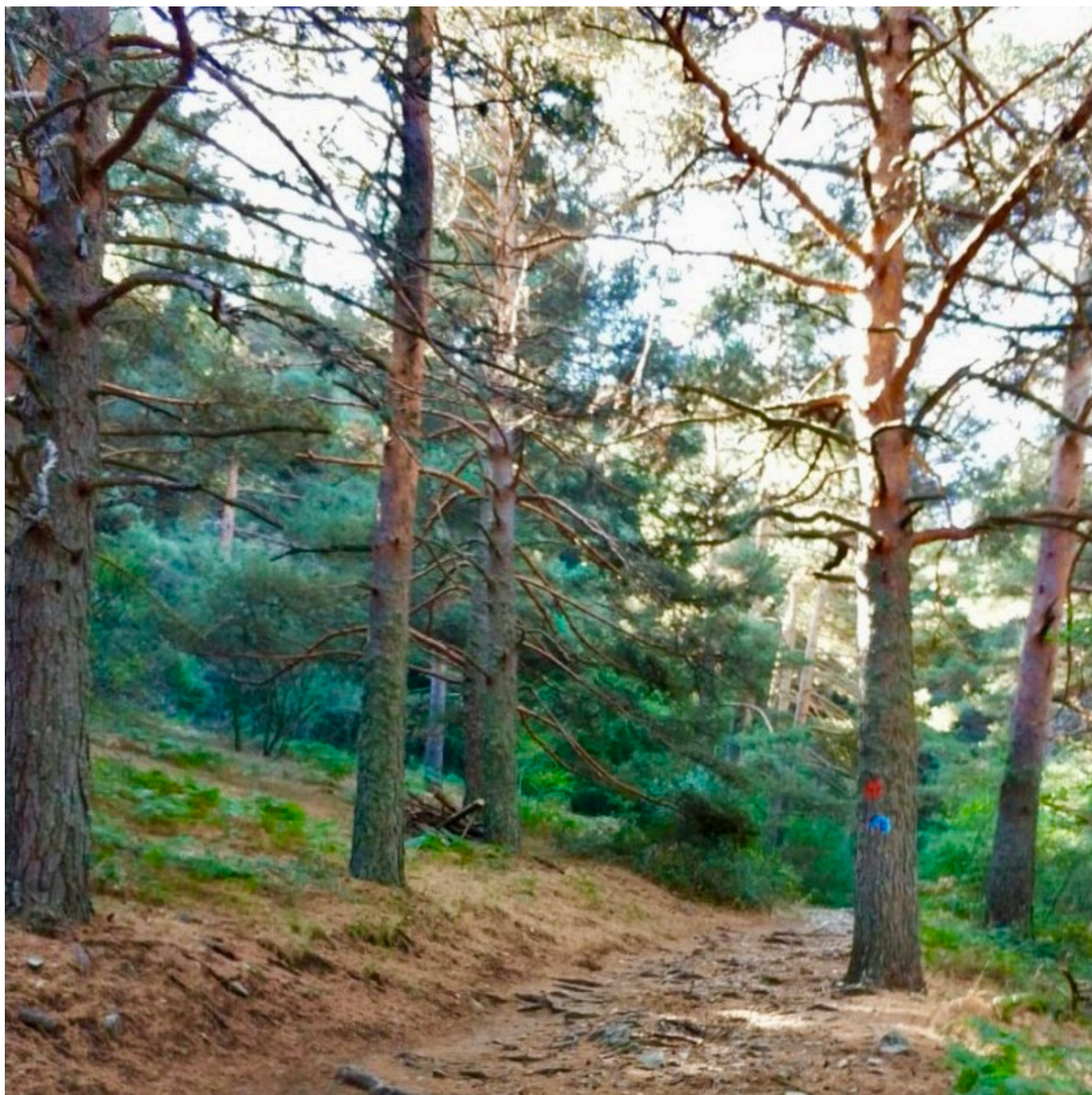
week to be escaping the city for a day in the mountains of Cercedilla, but was pleasantly surprised when I saw the immense beauty that La Sierra de Guadarrama beholds.



Getting to Cercedilla

Luckily, Cercedilla is only about a one-hour drive away from Madrid and can be easily reached by [train](#), which will drop you off right in the center of the quaint mountain town. I took a car to Cercedilla and after driving through this charming destination for a bit, found my way to the environmental office.

Stepping out of the car and getting a whiff of the crisp mountain air and pine trees was the perfect welcome into the gorgeous La Sierra de Guadarrama that surrounds Madrid. If you go up to the window at the environmental office, you will meet a guide who will provide you with plenty of information and maps on the hikes that the area boasts.



Choosing Your Hike

The guide at the environmental office explained the map that contains many different color-coded trails, informing us of how long each would take, what the difficulty level was, etc. We decided to do the orange trail and then break off to go to Puerto de la Fuenfria, one of the area's peaks.

Once you leave the environmental office, if you simply drive about five minutes up the road, you will find a lovely restaurant with outdoor seating – perfect for a delicious and

well-deserved bite after your hike! It was from this restaurant that we parked and found the trailhead for the orange trail.

The first part of this hike is definitely the most challenging, which the guide prepared us for at the environmental office. It is most definitely on the steeper side but travels through the thick forest, so although you will feel the burn, you will remain in the cool shade of the trees. The views are absolutely stunning all the way up, overlooking the towering mountain peaks. The trails are also marked very well, with the color of each trail on the trees helping you to stay on track.

After about an hour and a half of hiking through lush pines and enjoying picturesque moments, we made it to our first lookout point, Mirador Vicente Alexandre. This is a fabulous spot to admire the panoramic views, while having a snack or taking a water break. We found many boulders with Spanish quotes and poems carved on them, which added to the incredible atmosphere.



Puerto de la Fuenfria

After spending about 20 minutes at Mirador Vicente Alexandre, we continued on our hike. The rest of the trail that we took to reach the Puerto de la Fuenfria was a gorgeous dirt road, rather than a typical forest trail that was the first half of the hike. "Dirt road" may not sound like something "gorgeous," but there were barely any people there and horses roaming free with breathtaking views constantly in the background.

After hiking this road and enjoying the mountain views for about another hour and a half, we arrived at the peak. The views were wonderful, just as they were through the entire hike and there is an old fountain that we sat by to eat lunch.

There is an old Roman-built cobblestone road that you will hike down when you leave, which was a different but just as beautiful way than hiking up.

We arrived back at the restaurant, where our car was parked. Here, you can enjoy a nice meal to refuel after the 10-mile hike before driving back to the city.

Explore Madrid's Many Mountains!

After experiencing my first Madrid hike, I can confidently say that living in this vibrant city does not come at the expense of a world-class hike whenever your heart desires. La Sierra de Guadarrama is just one of many fantastic mountain destinations for you to enjoy an escape from the city. Explore the many other natural wonders that surround Madrid, such as Cotos Forest, Abedular Canencia, La Pedriza, and so much more.

By Haley Grant

Also read:

- [How to get to Cercedilla](#)
 - [Madrid's 10 most beautiful surrounding towns \(and how to get there\)](#)
-

Sala Equis – impress your friends with lunch in an old XXX theatre

Lunch at a once-was pornography theatre in Madrid is not what anyone expects and is exactly why you must go. The gem that awaits you is hardly recognizable from the street but once you arrive at Tirso de Molina metro, you're just feet away.

Once inside [Sala Equis](#), pass the popcorn machine and "taquilla" and go down towards the sun-soaked covered patio with two-story-high skylights. The natural light makes it a little difficult to see the main screen but it ironically plays second fiddle to the overall ambience.



During our afternoon visit, the suspended screen played an old black-and-white movie that blended into the background amongst the greenery and food and drink counter. According to [Sala Equis' website](#), there are often concerts in this same space though we weren't privy to see any that day.



Lunchtime turned out to be the ideal hour considering there was plenty of options for spaces to sit and eat but there were enough people to kickstart the pre-Saturday night feeling. We skipped the lawn chairs, swings and stadium-style seating and opted for some iron loveseats with tables.

The menu can't be described as one thing or another since it offers a bit of it all. We had the vegan burger with fries (€9), a flatbread pizza with fig and goat's cheese (€7.50), a quiche with bleu cheese and squash (€5.50), a couple of kimchi and shrimp wraps (€8 each).







The food was interesting, much like the locale. There's also Mahou on tap and a full bar.

Apart from the covered patio, there is still a functioning movie theatre. Though the genre originally screened is no longer, one can still find the red velvet couches that you could only imagine to be found in a former pornography movie

theatre.

Currently, Sala Equis plays all original version films (with subtitles). This month, classics like *Chitty Bang Bang* are playing alongside *Big Fish* and *Lady Bird*. Odd choices they may seem, but the selections are unexpectedly refreshing. Film tickets run about €6.50.

By Caitlin Mackenzie

Sala Equis

- [Website](#) & [Facebook](#)
- **Instagram:** @salaequismadrid
- **Address:** [Duque de Alba, 4](#) (Tirso de Molina or La Latina)

Peruvian Classics with a British Twist at Lascar

It's a warm Sunday afternoon and like all other Madrileños, I make my way to my favorite brunch spot for a few drinks, laughs with friends and some of the best ceviche I've ever had the pleasure of eating. I've been hoarding this brunch spot for months but this place is too good to not share.

[Lascar](#), which means buddy or mate in French, opened in Conde Duque seven months ago. The restaurant first began in Barcelona when the owners, Rob and Peter, wanted to find a way to stay in Spain. At the time, opening a cold food restaurant

was cheaper and easier than hot plates. So they settled on a cevicheria.

After a successful run up north, the Scot and Englishman set their sites on Madrid. Rob's father is Malaysian, so the food has a bit of Southeast Asian influence, with of course a Spanish influence.



I suggest starting with their scallops that are baked in

parmesan and are a heavenly bite of slightly crunchy cheese and a juicy bite of seafood.

If you fancy some British grub, their fish and chips are baked in a light and fluffy batter, giving the cod a buttery accent with a dash of cilantro cream dressing.



Of course their stable (and my favorite) is the range of ceviche dishes. The specialties vary by the week, from a classic lemony bowl of fresh fish to a spicier, tomato based ceviche.



As for the bar, you can't go wrong with one of their pisco sours or specialty Peruvian cocktails.

With summer around the corner, Lascar is the perfect weekend

brunch spot, with fresh seafood, cool bites and a sweet, tangy pisco.

By Moriah Costa

Lascar

- [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#) @LASCARMAD
- **Address:** Calle de la Palma 69
- **Metro:** San Bernardo or Noviciado

Also check out:

- [Best brunch on a budget in Madrid](#)
- [Brunch at Roll – Gotta roll with it](#)
- [Lady Madonna, because Sundays are made for brunching](#)
- [Plenti, a great new café and brunch spot in Las Letras](#)

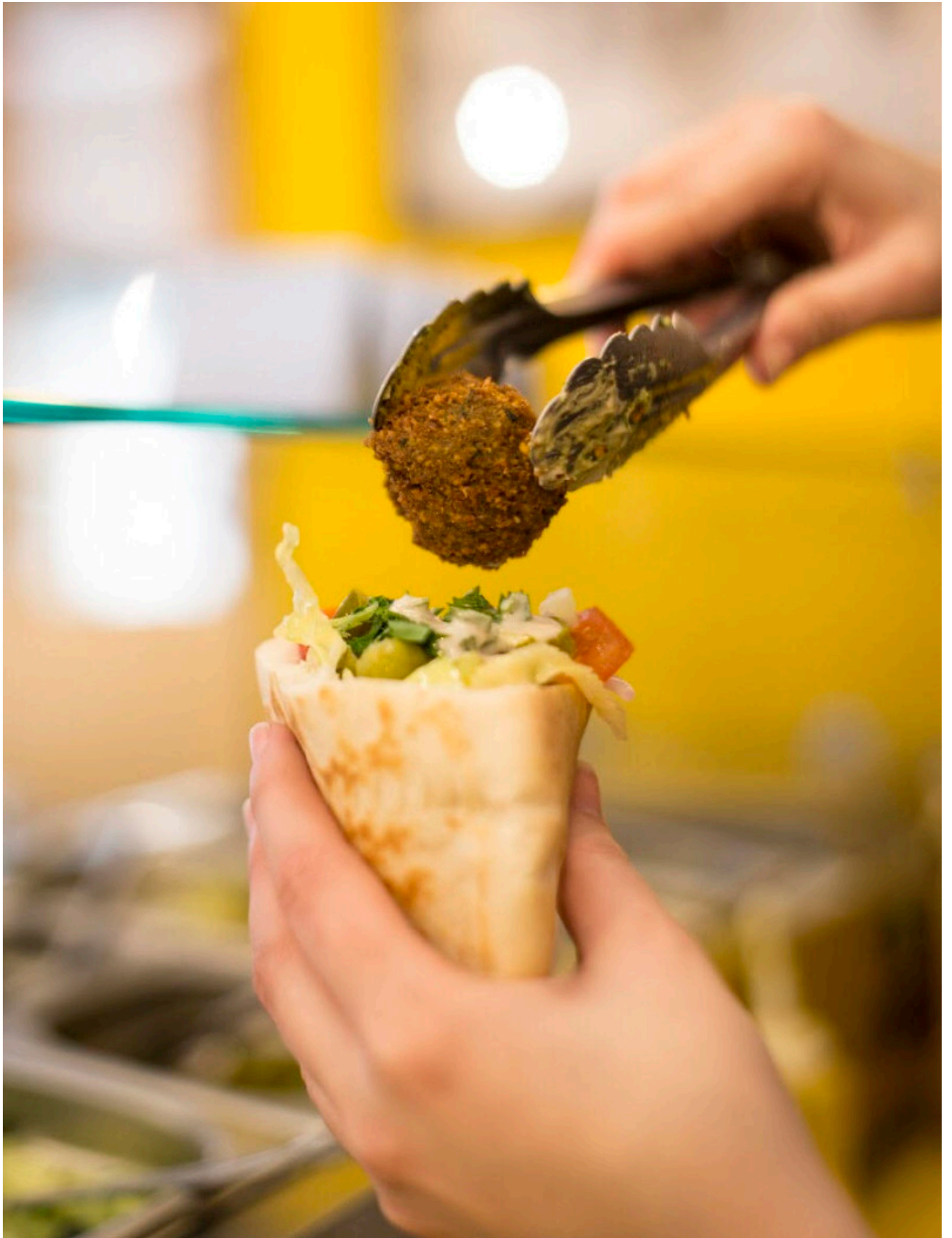
Falafeleria – authors of La Hummuseria's second success story

If it were a bestseller then authors of [La Hummuseria](#) have written another success story: [Falafeleria](#). Simplicity and *sabor* are the keys and if, like me, you suffer from indecision and are overwhelmed by the sight of a long menu, then this is your place.



There are three options to choose from. Each one is to be the contents of a delicious, home-baked pita. However, the main character of this tale has to be the falafel. I would love to

tell you the ingredients but when I asked, I was told they were a highly guarded secret recipe, as with the hummus. Whatever it is, they've done it right.



This is no resemblance to my own flaky, dry chickpea ball attempts. There's texture, body and a finish of herbs. This

falafel could well be eaten on its own. But in addition you get the garnish, the tahini dressing and of course the hummus.

Built on a street food-style joint in central Malasaña, you can eat in or take out. But this is no fast food pop up. It's healthy and fulfilling and on top of it all, they encourage you to recycle.



Oh and I almost forgot, they have a genius wrap holder for the table. All embarrassment spared if this is a first date destination. I'm heading back to try options two and three.

Photos courtesy of Lotem Gaziel, co-founder of La Hummuseria & Falafeleria

By Alice Josselyn

Falafeleria

- [Facebook](#)
- **Address:** Calle Santa Barbera 4
- **Metro:** Tribunal or Chueca
- **Open:** Tuesday – Saturday 13h-23h30; Sunday 13h-18h

Also check out [La Hummuseria!](#)

Acid Cafe – seasonal, minimalist, and just good coffee

Minimalist, sleek and edgy. That's the feeling I got when I first walked into Acid Cafe, a new coffee shop that opened its doors in Barrio de Las Letras just over a month ago.

A short walk away from the Reina Sofia, Acid Cafe is secluded, hidden down one of Madrid's many cobblestoned roads. The only thing that signals it's a coffee shop (besides the name) is the large coffee machine that can be viewed through its glass doors and walls.



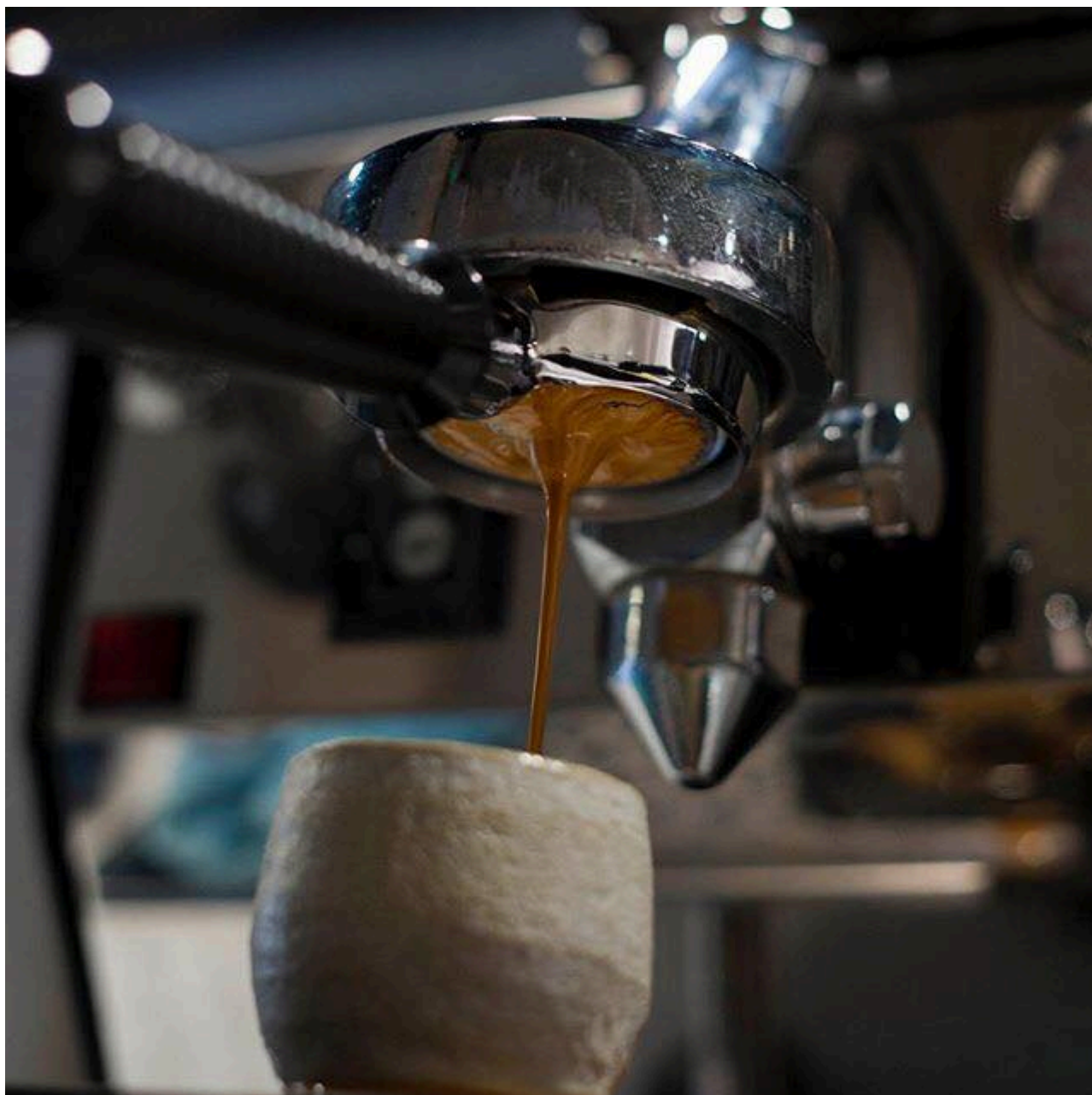
Fede Graciano, the founder and main barista, greets you when you get in and will show you the selection of coffee they have available, letting you smell the aroma. Passionate about coffee, he describes coffee beans by citrus, fruit flavors or smoother, bodied textures.

The name itself comes from a coffee description – good coffee

is often described by its acidity and sweetness. As a filtered coffee lover myself, it's a name I can appreciate.



The cafe's selection of food is seasonal and is meant to pair with its rotating selection of coffee from La Cabra, a roaster based in Aarhus, Denmark. Acid Cafe is the only shop in Madrid that offers the Nordic roaster and the quality of the filtered coffee is excellent.



The coffee menu isn't extensive and offers an Americano, flat white, batch coffee and filtered coffee. If you don't want coffee, they also have chai tea and kombucha.



Graciano said he wanted to create a place in Madrid that didn't just sell good coffee with your typical hipster menu of

avocado and toast or a croissant. The cafe's winter menu includes a creative selection of winter veggies, such as the pumpkin with beans and paprika or the Labneh (a type of yogurt cheese) with roasted tomato and cauliflower.



Their pastries are also made in house, and I particularly enjoy their vegan cookies, although I'm far from being a vegan.



They also occasionally have live DJs on Sunday afternoons, which Graciano is hoping to make a weekly occurrence.

Stepping into Acid Cafe on a Sunday reminds me of my days in London, when I would go to the local café to get out of the rain. While there may be an excuse as often to escape from the rain, Acid Cafe offers an excellent option to refuel before heading back into the arid sun.

By Moriah Costa

Info

- [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)
- **Address:** Calle de la Verónica 9
- **Metro:** Antón Martín or Atocha