



FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE TO THE CITY A TRIP THROUGH SPAIN

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Gran Hotel Ingles

Next, we made our way to Madrid and stayed at the Gran Hotel Ingles, the oldest hotel in the capital. The hotel opened in 1886 but has been completely renovated for a more modern aesthetic. The “newest, old hotel in Madrid” is in the historic old town of the city. It was a popular location for many writers to gather and collaborate throughout the 19th century, and even with the updates, the hotel still feels rich with stories as you walk down its narrow street (that can only fit one car at a time!) The location is convenient for exploring the entire city, but especially the Plaza de Santa Ana and Puerta del Sol, which are both within walking distance. We went to the Plaza de Santa Ana, where there are plenty of restaurants, cafes, and tapas bars to choose from. We had a great time sightseeing and taking in the view of the magnificent architecture all around us, especially the oldest theatre in Madrid on the east side of the square, the Teatro Español.

The Gran Hotel Ingles consists of 48 contemporary rooms and suites with soft lighting and sleek designs. All the rooms have an elevated sense of elegance, but they remain cozy simultaneously. Our first impression of the hotel is that it would be perfect for young adults traveling in Europe because it is so fresh and different but maintains the balance between new and old so well.



The hotel is home to two restaurants: Lobo 8 and LobByto. Lobo 8 is a gourmet restaurant that is known for putting a twist on traditional Spanish cuisine. LobByto is much more casual and so is the food offered there. It's actually the bar located in the lobby of the hotel, but I highly recommend it! LobByto is where I had the most sinfully outrageous Spanish Tortilla...and I am going to insist that if you find yourself there, you must try it! It is such a great meeting place for groups to enjoy tapas or if you're trying to kill time in-between activities with a cocktail. We were very impressed with the wonderfully attentive staff not only at these restaurants, but throughout the hotel in general.

The Gran Hotel Ingles has a small spa that has been recognized for its impeccable service as well. The spa has won 8 "Best Luxury Hotel Spa" awards and is known for its uniqueness. The spa maintains a provocative 1920's Art Deco style that is very chic and sophisticated.

In summary, I highly recommend both Abadia Retuerta LeDomaine and the Gran Hotel Ingles in Spain. Each offered a unique experience, were welcoming to guests, and had incredible tapas! If you have any additional questions about either hotel, please feel free to reach out to me!

