

La Feria de Abril – Transcript in English

Hello and welcome to Dynamic Spanish! Here, you can improve your Spanish while you explore this beautiful country. Are you ready? Let's go!

In this episode we're taking you to a festival in Seville called La Feria de Abril. Seville is the capital of the autonomous community of Andalusia, located in the south of Spain. Every year, around two weeks after Easter, the fair begins and runs for seven days. This is the biggest week in Seville's calendar, and something the locals are really proud of.

Every day at midday, a parade of horse drawn carriages takes people from here, all the way to the bullring; La Real Maestranza. Bullfights play an important part in this celebration, despite the mixed feelings that Spaniards have about this violent and bloody tradition. Bullfighting is not as popular as it used to be, with some regions, such as Andalusia, maintaining the tradition more than others. We'll discuss this controversial topic in detail in a future episode.

Attendees of the fair tend to dress very smartly, and that includes the well decorated horses. Women wear flamenco dresses with a matching flower in their hair, a shawl, and a fan. The men wear special suits with short jackets and flat brimmed hats. As you can see, it's a very fashionable and colourful event.

What do the men wear during the April Fair?

- A. Short jackets and flat brimmed hats
- B. Flamenco dresses with matching flowers in their hair
- C. Tuxedos

During the April Fair, the men wear short jackets and flat brimmed hats.

The entranceway to the fair is called La Portada and is designed by a different person each year. The Feria officially begins when the Mayor of Seville turns on all the lights in the festival grounds, starting with the 22,000 light bulbs found on this archway.

A vast area on the far bank of the Guadalquivir River is taken over by the Feria and covered in rows and rows of casetas. These casetas are individually decorated marquees that are privately run by businesses, organisations or groups of friends, and there are over 1000 of them on site. During the festival, entrance into the casetas is by invitation only, which is not ideal if you're a tourist, but there are a few public casetas where you can get a feel for the atmosphere.

Inside the casetas, people eat, drink, and dance the night away until the early hours of the following morning. The traditional drink during the Feria is rebujito, which is a refreshing mix of dry sherry and lemonade - perfect for Seville's hot spring sun.

What is the drink rebujito like?

- A. Sour
- B. Strong
- C. Refreshing

Rebujito is refreshing.

Let's go inside a caseta and look at some of the traditional dancing.

Although the women are wearing flamenco dresses, they are not actually dancing flamenco. This is a dance called sevillanas, a traditional type of dance and folk music from Seville, which is enjoyed across Andalusia. Sevillanas is danced in pairs or groups, with families often practicing with each other from a young age so that they know the moves for these big celebrations. It is similar to Flamenco but different in a few significant ways. The main difference is that flamenco is an improvised dance, whereas sevillanas is a set of rehearsed steps and routines. Sevillanas also does not include clapping, which is a fundamental feature of flamenco.

What is the main difference between sevillanas and flamenco?

- A. Flamenco is improvised
- B. Sevillanas is from Andalusia
- C. Sevillanas includes clapping

The main difference between sevillanas and flamenco is that flamenco is improvised.

The Feria de Abril is a wonderful celebration and a great time for the people of Seville and neighbouring towns. Next to the main festival site there is a huge fairground, so children and adults can have even more fun in between all the dancing and rebujitos.

We hope you enjoyed virtually visiting the Seville Fair. Our episode ends here and we'll finish the same way the Feria ends...with a wonderful fireworks display!

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