

Magical MADRID



THINGS TO DO & SEE

Very Animated

Ben voices the lead character on *Big Nate*, a new Nickelodeon animated series streaming on Paramount +.

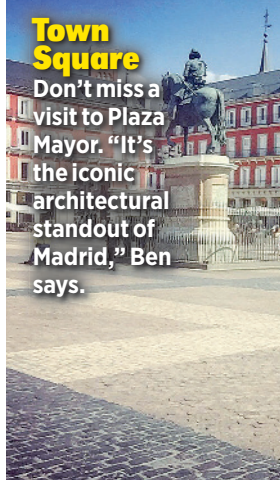


Test of Time

"Botín was founded in 1725 and is still offering the same menu!" says Ben, who likes to eat there on every trip to Madrid.

Town Square

Don't miss a visit to Plaza Mayor. "It's the iconic architectural standout of Madrid," Ben says.



BRING MADRID HOME

SPAIN'S CAPITAL OFFERS A CHANCE TO SLOW DOWN, GET LOST AND EMBRACE THE SWEET LIFE

Madrid is dripping with character at every twist and turn,” actor and *Big Nate* voiceover star Ben Giroux tells *Closer*. It’s true. Spain’s capital is a wonderful place to lose yourself among stunning architecture, lively plazas, thought-provoking history and a robust cafe and restaurant scene. “The first thing that struck me about Spain is the concept of priorities,” adds Ben. “In America, work is first. In Spain, it’s the complete opposite. People want to talk about their hobbies, their interests and their passions. They want to eat, party and congregate. Madrid really comes alive after midnight.”

THE TASTE

This pretty tin featuring Madrid’s most famous landmarks is filled with a variety of traditional Spanish cookies from Galletas Birba. \$19; tienda.com



THE LOOK

Keep your sunglasses handy in this cute travel-ready case. \$10; yourspanishshop.es



THE SIP

Toast a day of adventure with a glass of sangria.

INGREDIENTS

1 bottle dry Spanish wine

3 Tbsp. brown sugar

1/3 cup brandy

3/4 cup orange juice

Apple & orange slices

Muddle fruit with sugar in a large pitcher. Add brandy, orange juice and wine. Stir and enjoy over ice.



Culture Club

The Prado Museum houses one of the finest collections of European art — and entrance is free after 6 p.m. most evenings!



Park Pleasures

Once only royalty were allowed to enjoy El Retiro. Today it’s the largest public park in Madrid and a great place for a picnic.