

VERBENA BAR REVIEW

Madrid (and more specifically) Malasaña is choc-a-bloc with cute looking bars, so much so that it's often nigh on impossible, to pick from the myriad of options. However, should you find yourself Saturday strolling around the vintage shops that pepper Calle Velarde, Verbena is the perfect choice. Not a case of style over substance, Verbena is the perfect mid-shopping pit stop, as well as the ideal place for tapas time.



Like similar bars in the area, its decor is pleasing to the eye, as is its proximity to the perennially popular Plaza Dos De Mayo. It offers more than your simple caña/vino combo; I was particularly impressed with its **gin selection**, which could rival a far swankier locale. I plumped for a Nordes (which hails from Galicia in the north of Spain) – it came expertly served in a Copa de Balon and was quite the snip at 8 euros – I've spent obscene amounts on a G&T so this felt relatively bargainous.



My fellow bar hoppers enjoyed a crisp **Albariño** and an **Estrella Damn** – I was assured that they were both suitably pleasing to the palate and purse (an entire round came to less than a sarnie would in a city such as London or Paris).



The staff were friendly and knowledgeable (particularly when questioned about their own gin faves). Furthermore, Verbena boasts a simple menu that offers all the classics that you'd come to expect from Madrid – tortilla de patata, croquetas, complete breakfasts and the like.



Verbena is the equivalent of a trusty pair of jeans – a comfy option that requires minimal effort. Smack bang in the city centre, it'd be a crime to walk on by.

3.5 stars out of 5

Info

Address: Calle Velarde, 24