

Perdizione, a hidden Tex-Mex Burrito shop in Lavapies

Until quite recently, kebabs and falafels had the monopoly over nighttime snacks in Lavapies. My favorite new Tex-Mex hole in the wall is hidden due to its awkward branding.



Perdizione, a pizza franchise with another location in Legazpi, has partial ownership of this site—the sign above the door says “**Perdizione Pizzeria**” which causes passersby to be none the wiser that inside can be found hearty and filling burritos and other Mexican treats.



For **4 euros** you can get an **enormous burrito** of cochinita, vegetables or chicken, and for an additional €1.50 you can add on nachos, guacamole and a beer. **Tacos cost 1.50**. I smiled when I saw that they offered **Negra Modelo**, my Dad's favorite beer from his native city of Mexico D.F. The staff of this location have always been super *majo*.



Once I earned regular status I offered my council to the owner—this establishment needs to focus on its strengths and prioritize the burritos and its branding as a Mexican joint.

Info

[Facebook](#)

Where: Calle Miguel Servet 9

Metro: Lavapies, Embajadores

For more on Mexican food in Madrid, check out:

[Madrid's Best Mexican Joints](#)

Also in Lavapiés:

Baobab, an Authentic Senegalese Restaurant in Lavapiés

Tribuetxe, a Basque Pintxo Bar in Lavapiés

Cafelito, a trendy spot for coffee lovers in Lavapiés

Restaurante Badila, you need this place in your life

[Restaurante Badila](#) is my number one. My favourite place to eat in Madrid. I've flirted with other restaurants during the years I've lived here but I keep coming back to this one, it's just SO good. I've dragged pretty much all of my visitors here (some of them multiple times) and Badila never fails to disappoint. It's really only taken me so long to write a post about it because I was wrestling with the idea of whether to share Madrid's best-kept secret, but here we go. The secret is out.



This gem of a restaurant is tucked away behind Plaza Tirso de Molina, on the corner of Calle Cabeza with Calle San Pedro Mártir. Its interior is light and airy, with simple decor and a host of delicious wines on display. There's only room to squeeze in about ten tables, so the atmosphere is informal and unpretentious, with lovely owner Miguel waiting on tables himself. But the real star of the show here is, of course, the food. Oh, the food.

The menu consists of updated versions of Spanish classics, with a smattering of international dishes, all based on

the tried-and-tested formula: simple, home-cooked fare prepared with the freshest ingredients. Miguel shops around for the best stuff on offer each morning, so the menu changes from day to day and from season to season. **It's a *menú del día* format for both lunch and dinner**, with around six or seven options for *primeros* and the same for *segundos* – far too much choice for someone as indecisive as me!



On our most recent visit, my boyfriend ordered the ***ensalada mixta con frambuesas y queso de cabra*** (mixed salad with goat's cheese and raspberries) to start, whereas I opted for the ***salteado de espárragos con carabinero y crema de lechuga*** (a divine concoction of asparagus, red shrimp and lettuce – it needs to be tasted to be believed!).



For my second course, I went with my old favourite: ***escalopines al cabañes*** (pork fillet with *cabañes* cheese sauce). I must have ordered this dish over a dozen times at Badila but I can't help myself, it's just so damn tasty.



My boyfriend chose the ***redondo de ternera a la austriaca*** (stumped on how to translate this one, very tender veal in a delicious sauce?!) which he hadn't tried before. Initially I told him off for ordering something fairly unphotogenic but quickly forgave him because it tasted absolutely amazing and I ended up stealing half of it.



Naturally, we managed to squeeze in dessert. I had a slice of wonderfully gooey chocolate cake and my boyfriend went for his favourite **cuajada de queso** (describing this as milk curd just doesn't do it justice) which I didn't even manage to get a photo of because he ate it so quickly.



The *menú del día* costs just under 14 euros per person and is worth every penny. The portions are very generous and everything is well thought-out and unbelievably tasty. Even the bread here is delicious, unlike in many Spanish restaurants. The price of the lunchtime menu goes up to just under 18 euros at weekends and the evening menu is slightly more expensive at around 20 euros.

Badila is open every day for lunch from 14:00 – 16:30 and on Friday and Saturday evenings for dinner from 21:00 – 00:00. They only take reservations for dinner, so if you go at lunchtime I'd recommend either going early or going late otherwise you might have to wait for a table. As you'd expect, a place this good does get pretty busy!

Info

- [Facebook](#)
- **Address:** Calle de la Cabeza 7
- **Metro:** Tirso de Molina

▪ Telephone: 914 29 76 51

The Little Big Café: My little big pick-me-up

I think it was first on Instagram when I saw something from Cup of Couple. It was a fantastic breakfast setup with an exquisite-looking cup of coffee. Then Lovely Pepa posted another. Ever-curious, I clicked on top of the pin and found the address. What luck! It was only five minutes from my apartment. So one Sunday afternoon, I entered [The Little Big Café](#) for the first time. It's now one of my favorite spots to write, read *The New York Times*, or to just clear my head. In fact, it was here where I wrote my [Helena Rohner article](#).

Opened last year by Max and Cris (both with experience living and working abroad), the area of **Chamberí** between Moncloa and Argüelles now has a perfect oasis.

deliciosos elaborados con ingredientes naturales...

Desayunos (hasta las 13h)

a elegir entre caléote

- ▷ tostada con aceite y tomate 2⁰⁰
- ▷ tostada con montañilla o crema de queso y mermeladas 2¹⁵
- ▷ tostada con miel y canela 2¹⁵
- ▷ tostada con aguacate 3¹⁵
- ▷ bocadín de jamón 3¹⁵
- ▷ bocadín de pavo 3¹⁵
- ▷ porción de bizcocho 2⁴⁵
- ▷ media porción de tarta 3⁰⁰
- ▷ copos de avena con frutos secos 3¹⁵
- ▷ yogurt con frutas 3¹⁵
- ▷ yogurt con muesli 3¹⁵

complementos 1⁵⁰ extra

- zumo de naranja natural
- pequeño bol de frutas

THE Little Cafe

Snacks

- ▷ selección de hummus 3⁰⁰
- ▷ queso con pan 3⁰⁰
- ▷ crema de aguacate con nachos 3⁰⁰

Snacks brunch

- ▷ bizcocho con cereas 3⁰⁰
- ▷ pizzas 3⁰⁰

* panes naturales elaborados con masa madre

* leche fresca "frío"

Empanadas

- ▷ queso de cabra y queso 3⁰⁰
- ▷ queso de cabra y queso 3⁰⁰
- ▷ queso de cabra y queso 3⁰⁰
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TUBO Menu special

elige un sandwich + bebida

Menú Brunch

1. escoge un plato de punto
 2. escoge un plato de punto
 3. escoge un refresco - zumo natural - cerveza
 4. escoge - café - té
- y una pequeña porción de tarta
- 17⁰⁰ €





Now, you've already heard about [Little Big](#) as a place for [the best brunch on a budget in Madrid](#), and let me tell you, it is absolutely heavenly (my go-to is the *tosta de huevos a la plancha al estilo árabe* on whole-wheat bread). But this cozy café great for more than brunch. Open from 9 am to 8 pm during the week, you can go to **Little Big** at almost any hour.

And with that there are several *menú* options (and let's face it, a ***menú del día*** is one of Spain's greatest little pleasures). In the morning until 1 pm, you can enjoy the breakfast menu (***menú de desayuno***). This includes one breakfast plate (I love the ***bocadín de jamón*** on whole-wheat...) and a coffee or tea. To round out my special breakfast, I always get one of the make-your-own smoothies. While you can put in yogurt or milk, I prefer to get mine with water so it's more like a juice.



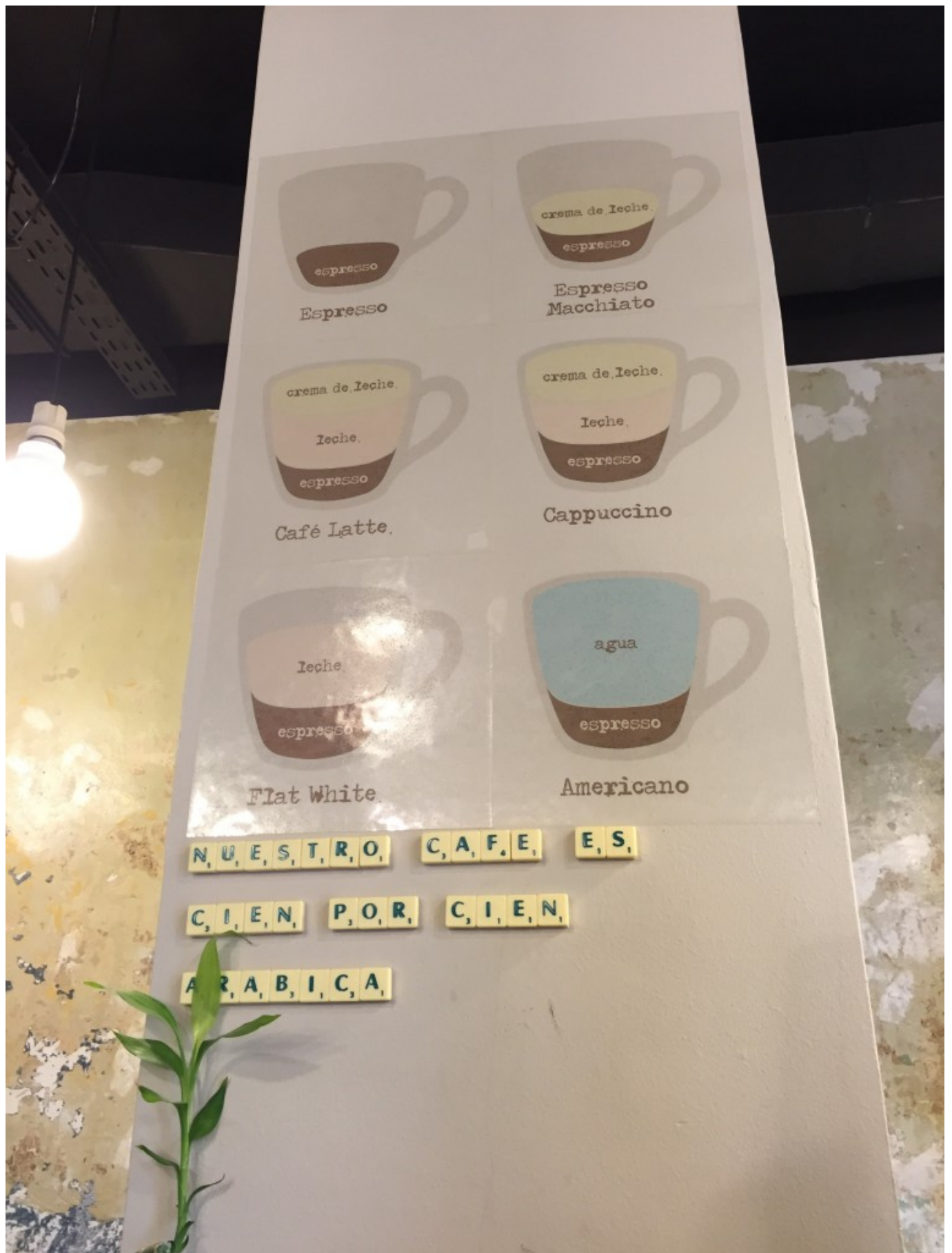
There are two lunch-time menus, the TLBC (which has a sandwich, salad, and drink for €11), or the **menú del día** (with two [courses](#), a side dish, drink, and dessert for €10.50). And then on the weekends, the brunch menu is also an amazing meal (you're way full afterwards).

If you're just craving something sweet for your afternoon snack, then the baked goods at the counter and window are calling your name. The banana bizcocho is gluten and sugar-free, but everything else, in spite of the fact that I can't eat them, looks fabulous. One of my roommates had the cake

made with beer and loved it.



Then, of [course](#), let's not forget what first my caught my eye in the first place on Instagram: the coffee. With a plethora of variations...



you'll see why their slogan is: "a little café with a big heart." With to-go cups and a VIP program where you can put

your Polaroid on the wall, this is also a place that coffee lovers can love. With the VIP program, you can make The Little Big Café part of your heart the way the owners have seemed to have conceptualize it.



As evidenced by my presence on the wall, the little café with a big heart has become an extension of my home and my little

big pick-me-up.



Info:

Where: Calle Fernández de los Ríos, 61

Metro: Moncloa (also easily accessible from Argüelles)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Website](#)

You may also like:

Coziest Cafés in Chamberí

Best Brunch on a Budget in Madrid

Best Cafe-Bookshops in Madrid, Round 1

Best Cafe-Bookshops in Madrid, Round 2

Toma Café – Fuel up, Feel hip

Gin O'Clock – Time to Enjoy Madrid's Finest G&T's

In my youth (to be said in granny-esque tones) I had many love affairs, with many different tipples. You name it; I'd tried it (and more than likely I would have had the hangover to show for it). Malibu and Pineapple, Archers and Lemonade, Amaretto and Coke followed by a brief dalliance with Vodka and Cranberry. They'd all been enjoyed (or endured) until I finally met my drink soulmate; **the G&T**.

Being a Brit, it's fair to say that they'd had always been on my radar, but upon moving to Madrid my unabashed obsession with them reached fever pitch. Clearly encouraged by the sheer abundance of gin bars that positively litter the *calles* of pretty much every *barrio*. To this end I'm going to share my gin aficionado tips on **where to grab the best G'Vine in the city.**

La Prudencia



Situated on one of my favourite streets in Madrid, this small but perfectly formed bar is ideal for a romantic rendezvous due to its gorgeous low lighting and shabby chic decor, as well as being the perfect place for a few pre-club copas. It was here where I first sampled a **Brockman's gin** (one of my current faves in case you're curious) but should you fancy a

gin that's served exactly as it should be then put **La Prudencia** on your list. The bar is piled high with fruits, herbs and even rose petals which the expert bar staff use with flair. They explain why certain flavour combinations have been matched and don't make you feel like a numpty for asking. Most gins start at around **10 euros** which (given that they're the size of your head) is in my opinion, money well spent.

[Facebook](#)

Where: *Calle del Espíritu Santo, 41*

Phone: *915 22 30 97*

Metro: *Noviciado or Tribunal*

The Gin Room



Now here's a bar that is slightly out of my comfort zone (and by that I mean it's not in Malasaña) but if you're looking for reason to get out of your skinny jeans and into an LBD whilst

sipping on a gin, this place is it. Extremely slick and stylish, **The Gin Room** has a gin list quite literally as long as my arm. Whilst the atmosphere there was slightly lacking on my last trip, the gins certainly packed a punch. By default I always tend to revert back to **G'Vine** (it's French and fabulous). Here it came served with grapes which complimented the delicate floral flavour of **G'Vine** perfectly. Before the night was through I'd managed to blitz about 70 euros on six gins (not all for me might I add) so this is definitely not the place to visit when there's too much month left at the end of your money. Saying that, as a payday treat it's a great place to enjoy a glamorous gin o'clock.

[Facebook](#)

Where: *Calle de la Academia, 7*

Phone: *699 75 59 88*

Metro: *Atocha or Banco de España*

Shuzo's



Shuzo, Shuzo, Shuzo, it almost pains me to share this hidden gem for fear that I'll never be able to perch on a bar stool there again. First things first, it is tiny (we're talking the size of a wardrobe) and secondly the array of gins that they stock is a gin lovers delight – I think I genuinely clapped and whooped on arrival, admittedly it doesn't take much! This bar has the old classics such as **Hendricks**, **Bombay** and the like as well, as some very quirky brands such as **Monkey 47**, an unusual (yet potent) gin hailing from the Black Forest in Germany. The atmosphere here is laid back but rest assured you definitely feel as though you are 'someone in the know' upon entering into this wee Aladdin's cave.

[Facebook](#)

Where: Calle de Jorge Juan, 52

Phone: 914 35 91 71

Metro: Príncipe de Vergara

So folks, there's three to get you started and remember – it's always gin o'clock somewhere in the world...so bottoms up!

Looking for more on Madrid's best cocktail bars? Check out:

1862 Dry Bar – perfection served in a glass!

Madrid's best cocktail bars – Martinis, Cosmopolitans and more...

Cycling in Madrid: A Beginner's Guide

Madrid was, for quite some time, a cyclist's nightmare. While other cities around Spain and Europe were busy laying down networks of bike lanes for the growing number of urban cyclists, Madrileños dug in their heels and dismissed their city as an unbikeable exception—too many hills, they said, too many cars, and nobody's accustomed to those two-wheeled bastards in this kind of traffic.

But over the past two years, the culture has started to change. The ayuntamiento spearheaded a series of projects designed to embrace commuter cyclists, encouraging them to take to the streets that were once considered unnavigable death traps by the locals. The crown jewel of their push was [BiciMad](#), the public bike-share program modeled on similar ones in Paris, London and New York, which was unveiled last Spring

in a shaky but ultimately successful launch. This was accompanied by a network of shared-use bike lanes slapped together throughout the city center, distinguished by a speed limit of 30 kilometers per hour and bike symbol painted on the asphalt, serving as both a safety measure and awareness campaign for honk-happy drivers not used to sharing the streets.





A recently-painted street last Fall, heading South through Malasaña. Priority bike lanes were part of the Ayuntamiento's push to make Madrid a bike-friendly city.

While not without its problems, the program has played a fundamental role in legitimizing and normalizing cycling in the capital. It's now safe to say that Madrid is a bike-friendly city. The cycling infrastructure is growing by the month, the mindset of the public has changed, and there now seems to be broad support for this healthy, fun, and sustainable means of transport.

I would also argue that there's a more subtle benefit to cycling here. Riding through the narrow streets of the central barrios offers a deeper sense of the layout of this city, a richer understanding of the space and distance that get warped behind car windows and destroyed in the tunnels of the metro. It's as if there were a rhythm behind the chaos of Madrid and cycling sets it all to the proper RPM, revealing a song too slow to be heard walking and too muddled at anything

faster.

I hope you hear it too.

Every time I see an adult on a bicycle, I no longer despair for the future of the human race."

– H. G. Wells

1. Learning (or re-learning) to ride a bike



Bici-Critica, a once-a-month protest to reclaim the streets for all types of alternative transport, features bikes and riders of all types.

Maybe you haven't ridden a bike in a couple years. Maybe you haven't done much of anything in years, and your physical activity has dwindled down to drunken dancing and raising toasts. That's no problem at all. You can learn to mount a bike again in no time, I promise. As they say, it's just like riding a bike: your motor memory is still intact, all you have to do is reactivate it. I'd suggest renting a bike or taking out a BiciMad and going for a lazy spin in a calm area, like Retiro or the Madrid Rio. You'll fall back into the groove of things almost immediately, and then it's simply a matter of building up your confidence.

As for those who have never learned to ride a bike, there's a [bike program run at the Matadero](#), the community and art space that can do no wrong. This program teaches adults of all ages to balance and ride using a safe, practical method. Even if you end up throwing your practice bike in the river in a fit of rage, you still get to hang out at the Matadero. There's nothing to lose. I ask that you consider this clichéd but ever pertinent proverb: "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago; the second best time is now." Cycling is the sports equivalent of literacy, something most of us take for granted but which some just didn't learn in their youth. If you've never managed to get your feet off the ground and wobble into a steady balance on two wheels, that's fine. I've never eaten poutine. Let's not let these become deathbed regrets.

2. Choosing a type of bike

The type of bike you ride is a matter of lifestyle and personal preference, but keep the following in mind:

Madrid has hills. Calle Segovia, which climbs from the river into La Latina, is the perfect example of the plateaued nature of this city, but it's far from the one. These "cuestas" pretty much rule out anything as heavy as a cruiser (though

you do see some people rocking them, whom we all salute.) This could also make a Fixie a bit less appealing to some, though they are by no means uncommon here. My neighborhood is awash in them with more showing up every week, proving once again that, along with Edison bulbs and burritos, Madrid catches on to transatlantic trends a decade after they explode.



A trail weaving through Casa de Campo, just outside the city center. These types of trails are only really accessible on mountain bike.

Madrid has dirt trails. Some of the best biking available in Madrid is around Casa de Campo and the foothills outside the city. There are beautiful, secluded routes that weave through those shrubby Spanish oak trees, but the rocks and dirt pretty much limit them to mountain bikes. It's worth considering how important this is to you, and to balance it with drawbacks that might come with a mountain bike. If you have the money or space to afford more than one type, make this one of them.

Madrid has long-distance rides outside the city. There are some great bike routes that spread out from the center which might be more difficult without a traditional geared setup. Again, this is personal preference. I'm partial to my classic road bike with the suicide shifters and a good derailleur (price, flexibility, quality) though again, you have options. Fixies are sexy, good in the city, and their riders are avid defenders of the intimate handling they provide, but they might prove more difficult on these longer stretches.

Madrid has thieves. If you want to get a nice bike, or nice bike parts, be prepared to buy the security measures for them. Your Brooks saddle won't last a week if not properly secured. It's best to buy mid-range or lower if you plan on leaving your bike intact on the street, and if not you should have a plan to secure your things. It's not uncommon to see cyclists taking off their seats and carrying them into bars and shops with them.

Madrid has a bike-share program: If you only see yourself using your bike from time to time and mostly in the center, this could be your best option. Joining the program is covered [in another post](#), but be aware of their many drawbacks, from understocked stations to the limited range across the city.

3. Buying a bike

Once you know what you're looking for, you should decided if you'd like to buy a new or used bike, though realistically a used one is your best option. It just makes more sense in this theft-heavy city, particularly for the low-paid, transient English teachers that read this blog. I wouldn't pay more than 400 euros for one, though it's possible to pay much less. My early '90s Peugeot, for example, is in perfect shape and cost around 200 euros. You can go even cheaper.

The most common sources for used bikes are these Spanish equivalents to Craigslist:

1. [segundamano](#)
2. [milanuncios](#)



Mountain bikes are a good option in Madrid. This photo was taken in El Pardo on a Sunday ride, while I struggled behind the dirt trail on my road bike.

When searching online, pay attention to the style of bike you want and the rough frame size that fits you, which can be easily [calculated here](#). It's probably best to search with the bike type (tipo), frame size (talla), and possibly the brand (marca) as the main keywords. For example, search: "Bici carretera, talla 60." Here's some useful vocabulary when searching for a bike:

size – *talla*

brand – *marca*

type – *tipo de bici*

Fixed gear – *piñon fijo / fixie*

Road bike – *Bici carretera*

Racing bike – *Bici carrera*

Mountain bike – *Bici de montaña*

Be sure to ask about any potential problems or peculiarities the bike may have. It's best to go out and check the bike yourself, ride around a bit, and talk to the owner. It's not nearly as intimidating as it might sound. Be sure to haggle.

If you're looking to buy new, there are bike shops all over this city, so you have some options. This guide probably isn't your best resource, but I guess I'd recommend a few places in the center, like FixedLand (bikes as low as 400 euros), Bicis Noviciados, and La Calmera, but there are also some specialty shops with fancier bikes and bigger price tags peppered throughout Madrid. Do some research and look around.

4. Notes on Law, Safety, and

General Advice

- **Buy a lock:** This is so important that it could be a category by itself. If you plan on locking your bike up on the street at any point, a solid U-lock or something equally strong is your only safe option. Securing your frame with a cable lock is like putting “do not eat” on your tupperware chicken salad in the office fridge. It’s also smart to lock up your wheels with a cable and to unclip your lights. People will steal anything they can.
- **Helmet:** They’re not required by law yet but they’re a damn good idea.



Things to never leave your house without: U-lock, helmet,

cable lock, rear light, front light and bike tool.

- **Lights:** You are required to have a red back light and a white front light after dark according to Spanish law. It's also just smart. when I first started riding my bike through Madrid, I was given advice by a seasoned professional to wear "*más luces que un puticlub*." You might also consider a reflective vest if you are doing longer commutes in poorly-lit areas (they're cheap, most shops have them), though as far as I've researched they aren't required by law.
- **Bells:** Bells are actually required by law according to most sources I've come across, but they're a good idea regardless. Shouting doesn't seem to disperse pedestrians, but bells have a way of parting crowds like the Red Sea.
- **Hand signals:** Learn "right turn," "left turn" and "stop." These are particularly useful in heavier traffic or if a car is riding your ass.



Wine and biking can be a dangerous mix without moderation. Cuidate.

- **Cars, cabs and scooters:** Drivers have gotten much better in

the past couple of years, but there will always be jerks on the road. Don't let them intimidate you and know that you have the right to occupy the entire right lane of a road if you so choose. Let them bitch.

- **Pedestrians:** These are worse than cabs and scooters combined when it comes to bike awareness, so be very careful when they're roaming about. They cross the street by sound instead of sight in Madrid, so if they don't hear you coming, they won't even look up before stepping out in front of you. And, inevitably, it will be your fault.

- **Priority Bike lanes:** Frequently the priority bike lanes (30km with a bike logo) just end in the middle of nowhere, or suddenly jump over to a different lane with no warning, or let you out into a four-lane roundabout. Some cars pretty much ignore them. When you're in them you have the right of way, but if it's possible and safe, hang to the right so cars can pass with more room. You don't have to, but it's polite.

- **Streets without designated bike lanes:** It's best to stick to the far right lane (without going into the taxi-bus lane) and to occupy the entire lane so that cars don't try to split the lane with you. Occasionally they'll honk, but you have every right to be there. If you're feeling polite you can pull further right and let them pass, but this is not an obligation.

- **Bus-Taxi lanes:** It currently is not permitted to use these lanes on a bike.

- **One-way streets:** Try to ride with traffic at all times, or else dismount and walk your bike. This city has some very inconvenient one-way streets to discourage cars from going through the center, and unfortunately the rest of us get caught in the mess. The police have started to fine cyclists going the wrong way recently, so be very careful, particularly in on Corredera Baja right next the Plaza San Ildefonso (right

in front of La Bicicleta). It's a trap!

- **Traffic lights:** If you have time and feel safe, you should weave to the front of the cars for both a better position when the light turns green and for visibility reasons. (Be careful though—watch out for pedestrians and cab doors that might swing open.) This move is perfectly legal and sometimes there is even a designated space for bikes and scooters in front of the traffic. Aside from this, remember that you're considered “un vehículo más” on your bike, which means you have to obey all the same traffic laws as a car. The fine is 200 euros if you get caught running a light, 120 euros for running a stop sign.

- **Sidewalks and pedestrian areas:** It's illegal to ride on the sidewalks, so do it sparingly or not at all. I've heard rumors of a law excepting sidewalks wider than five meters, but enbicipormadrid.com offered a reward for anyone who could find the law and as far as I know, nothing turned up. Do not ride down Montera, the mall-like part of Fuencarral, or any other pedestrian walkway unless you are going very slowly or walking your bike. It's illegal and you can get ticketed (though I've never seen cops care too much here.) Usually there's a good parallel route, try to find that.

- **Roundabouts:** Unlike the rest of this city's bike and car infrastructure, I find these dangerous and try to avoid them at all costs. Some are five lanes wide and nobody seems to follow the rules. If you feel unsafe approaching a roundabout, abandon ship and walk your bike on the sidewalk. Remember, be a cyclist or a pedestrian, but try not to be both; it confuses drivers.



This new bike lane, cutting through Casa de Campo, is part of a growing push by the ayuntamiento to normalize cycling in the city and expand the existing infrastructure.

- **headphones:** Illegal while riding, even in one ear. (91 euro fine)
- **Cell phones:** Illegal while riding. (91 euro fine)
- **Cabs and car doors.** Watch out for these. If you want to ride to the front of cars waiting at a red light (which most do), ride slowly and carefully between the cars, and make sure they see you. If not, just hang back and wait for the light to change. Both are legal. Use your judgement.
- **Rain:** Rain makes this city slick. Very slick. Cobblestones, smooth white paint, big metal grates, pretty much everything is out to hurt you in the rain. For example, I fell this last weekend after a street cleaner hosed down the plaza to a squeaky-clean perfection, and my tire slipped out like socks on a linolium floor.
- **Drinking and riding:** Drinking and riding is a dangerous game. Know your limits and try not to do it at all. If you get caught weaving around drunkenly, you can get charged up to 500 euros.
- **Choosing a route:** Some bigger avenues have priority bike lanes but they're not always the fastest or safest route. Usually there's a parallel road that's calm and just as fast. Learn your routes.



The Royal Palace at Sunset, after a long bike ride through the city

- **Crossing Gran Via:** This one is oddly specific, but it took me ages to figure it out so I thought I would share: the best way to cross Gran Via from anywhere to the North is San Bernardo. Even if it seems out of the way, it'll save you time navigating through people or one-way streets going North. There is really no other way to cross that street without dismounting or riding on the sidewalk. The other direction (toward Malasaña) has many possible routes.

- **fines in Madrid:** Cops aren't everywhere and most of us have broken these rules from time to time, but these are the fines you can expect if you get caught doing any of the following:

- *Riding on the sidewalk: 60€*
- *Riding at night without lights: 60€*
- *Riding with headphones in: 91€*
- *Riding while on a cell phone: 91€*
- *Riding through a stop sign: 120€*

- *Riding the wrong way: 150€*
- *Running a red light: 200€*
- *Blowing positive when drunk: 500€*

(source: enbicipormadrid.es)

While you should take all of the above into account, it's really not as complicated as all that. Thousands of people of all types go riding through this city every day, and the numbers continue to grow. Get out there and join them!

Want to know more about cycling in Madrid? Check out these articles:

[Electric city-bikes in Madrid, a city that's turning biker friendly](#)

[4 Best Biking Routs in Madrid for tourists](#)

[Where to break a sweat in Madrid](#)

La China Mandarina, a Flashy New Bistro in Plaza de Cascorro

[La China Mandarina](#), a bistro situated in **Plaza de Cascorro**, was previously an antique shop that underwent a loud and prolonged renovation over the course of several months. Upon its completion, I peered in through its glass windows in an

attempt to scope it out. I'm always on the prowl for affordable & pseudo-classy locations to write about. La China Mandarina is a large space, dimly lit, with a long communal table in the center. The crowd in the establishment was young and well-dressed. The interior design of the place was a little bit swankier than the older businesses in the zone that remain frozen in time.





Their 11€ menu del dia changes daily, **offering a broad spectrum of healthy & gastronomic snacks**. The menu that was available on the day that I entered consisted of a **thick and spicy lentil soup** followed by a plate containing three small portions, **a salad with apples and olive-based dressing, a couscous curry with vegetables and a salmon tartar**. I traded a wine/beer in favor of a *cafe cortado*. I was tempted by their delicious desserts on display although in this instance I exerted restraint for once.





I learned that the location **offers a brunch for 16€** on weekends which I will absolutely return for. I can imagine the spot, like all businesses in this area, being thumping on Sundays due to Rastro traffic. **The location doubles as a coffee shop with wifi during non-meal hours** which allowed me to chronicle my foodie experience while it was fresh in my head. With their gastronomic menu del dia changing every day in all likelihood it will be impossible for me to sample all of their offerings. This ambiguity as to what else they can whip up in the future furthers my desire to return.

Info

[Facebook](#)

Address: Plaza de Coscorro, 17

Metro: La Latina

Looking for more spots in La Latina and Lavapiés? Check out:

Cosy Wine Bars in La Latina (with gluten-free options!)

Taberna Lamiak, a Basque pintxo bar with Tuesday-night wine tastings

Tribuex, another Basque pintxo bar you have to try

Baobab, an authentic Senegalese restaurant in Lavapiés