

Stella



Jennifer Hudson

A Dreamgirl's awakening

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Before they were fabulous... SJP, Angelina and Rihanna as we rarely see them – looking frumpy

The odd couples From age-gap lovers to the living apart-ners

Totally andro-genius Slick and super-chic girl-meets-boy fashion

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FOOD
Exclusive recipes from Angela Hartnett

Girl's guide to... Bilbao

This Basque city is a beguiling mix of old-world charm and distinctly modern, jaw-dropping architecture. It's also small enough to explore on foot and has some of the best food in Spain

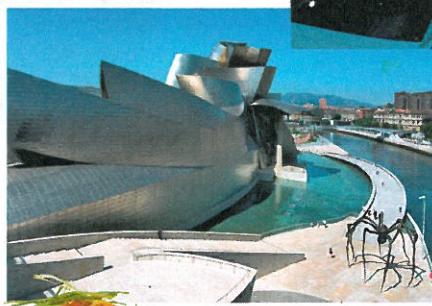


STAY

- The Gran Hotel Domine is a design nerd's dream. Designed by Javier Mariscal, it has Philippe Starck baths, Alvar Aalto stools and Arne Jacobsen taps. The suites on the fifth floor face Frank Gehry's Guggenheim museum – watch the sunset reflected in its shiny silver skin from your bed. From £122 (granhoteldominebilbao.com)
- Hotel Embarcadero is a small villa hotel in the port-side area of Getxo. The rooms are all decorated 1920s-style and the suites have sea views. From £138 (hotelembarcadero.com)

EAT

- Zortziko is acknowledged as Bilbao's best restaurant and the hushed, plush dining-room certainly feels like a temple to its Michelin-starred chef Daniel Garcia's cooking. The tasting menu includes dishes such as roast suckling pig with cinnamon oil and white asparagus (zortziko.es)
- La Deliciosa, in the pretty old quarter of Casco Viejo, is a more relaxed, but none the less stylish, affair. Cooking is simple – we tried the steak, fried potatoes and



sautéed wild mushrooms – but top quality (ladeliciosa.net)

DRINK

- Come sundown, the cobbled streets of the old town are packed with people drinking txakoli, a local white wine, and nibbling on pintxos, the Basque take on tapas. The most delicious morsels can be found at Irrintzi (Santa Maria 8) and Gatz, a few steps away
- With its antique tiles, wood panelling and ornate mirrors Café Iruña has real Moorish charm. The perfect place for an aperitif or a coffee (cafesdebilbao.net)

SHOP

- Ricas Y Famosas is a small but well-stocked boutique in the centre of town that specialises

in pretty party pieces by labels such as See by Chloé and Hoss Intropia (Calle Elcano 18)

- Sleek and stylish, Sa'd Joyas is a jewellers selling unusual, minimalist pieces by local and international

designers. Its selection of beautifully crafted rings is reason enough to have your credit card at the ready (sadjoyas.com)

- Peek inside La Alacena del Víctor Montes – a deli and restaurant – where the shelves groan with foodie delights, such as foie gras, jamón ibérico and Basque idiazábal cheeses (victormontesbilbao.com)

DO

- Is it a shoal of whales; a fleet of ships; a tin of sardines? Don't just gaze at the Guggenheim museum from the outside – the space inside is almost as impressive as the exterior (guggenheim-bilbao.es)
- Continue your architectural odyssey with a ride on Norman Foster's Metro or a trip to Santiago Calatrava's Sondika airport and bridge ●

Clockwise from top left: the river Nervión flowing through Bilbao; the Gran Hotel Domine; Café Iruña; pintxos from Gatz; the Guggenheim museum



FLY WITH
Vueling flies from London Heathrow to Bilbao daily from £104 return (vueling.com)