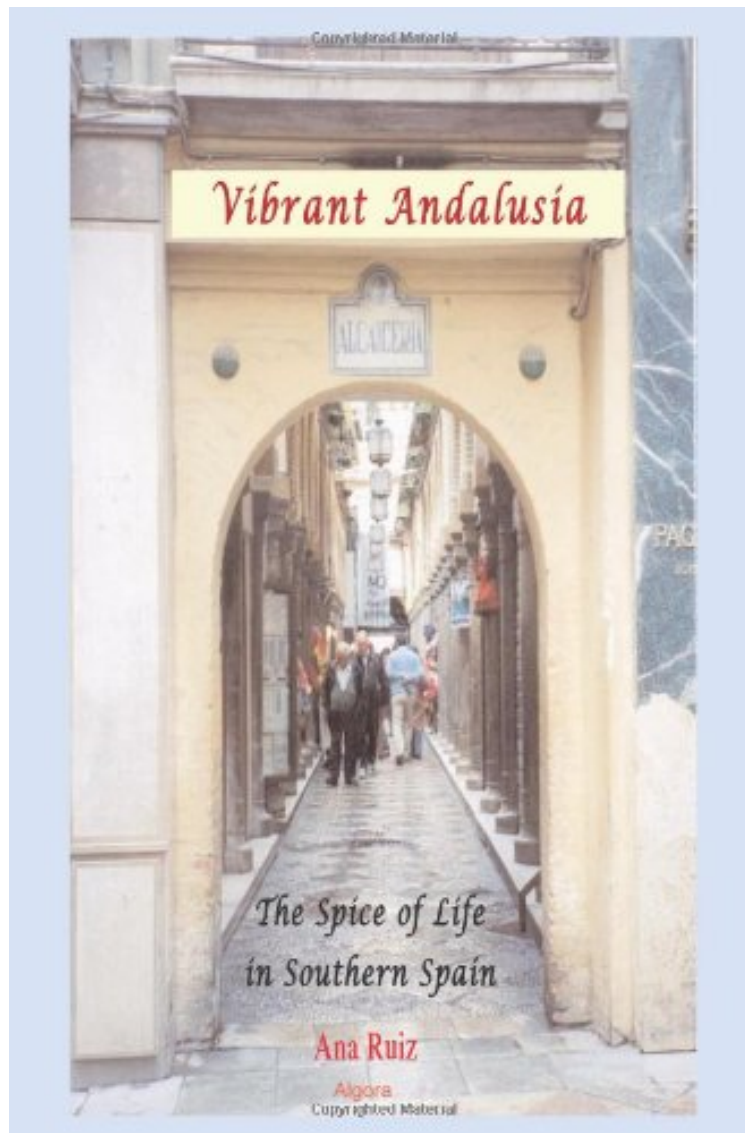


(Mobile book) Vibrant Andalusia: The Spice of Life in Southern Spain

Vibrant Andalusia: The Spice of Life in Southern Spain

Ana Ruiz

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Ana Ruiz : Vibrant Andalusia: The Spice of Life in Southern Spain before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vibrant Andalusia: The Spice of Life in Southern Spain:

Almost a thousand years ago, when most of Europe was just edging out of the Dark Ages, the south of Spain was a brilliant center of world culture, a site of splendor, and a magnet for the talented and ambitious from all around the

Mediterranean, the Near East, and beyond. In the days before Isabel and Ferdinand (and the Inquisition), the indigenous culture of Spain was enriched by the artistic, scholarly, technical and commercial contributions of Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, Jews and Gypsies. Even under the Catholic Monarchs, these diverse influences continued to add spice to a vibrant society evolving under the generous rays of the sun. Written with verve and personality, this book is based in part on the author's personal research in Spain and France and her interviews with celebrated dancers, musicians and others. Topics include early settlers, the Moors, the grandeur of Al-Andalus, Gypsies, the music and dance of Flamenco and Zambra, the individual provinces of the region, Arabisms in the language today, and, of course, the delicious paella. Sites of historic and cultural interest are identified and described, including the best venues for Flamenco performances, historical monuments from the Alhambra to less famous fortresses, fountains and places of worship, markets and scenic outlooks. The text is illustrated by many photographs and original artwork. * Ana Ruiz has worked as a columnist and freelance writer for several magazines and publications in Canada, United States, and Great Britain. She is the author of several books including *The Spirit of Ancient Egypt*, Algora Publishing (2001), reprinted as *Daily Life in Ancient Egypt* by Souvenir Press, London, 2004. Ruiz is also a student of dance, specializing in Oriental and Flamenco styles. While her roots are Andalusian, Basque, and Castilian, she and her family now reside in Montreal, Canada.

Writer and dancer Ruiz offers a look at the historical roots and diverse influences of Southern Spain's modern culture, particularly highlighting Andalusia's golden age (which was concurrent with the Dark Ages of the rest of Europe) and the pre-inquisition art, architecture, and achievements of Moorish, Jewish, and Gypsy residents. She also discusses the music and dance of Flamenco and Zambra, the individual provinces of the region, Arabisms in Spain's current language, and the best places to see the legacy of Andalusia's rich history. Some bw photos and illustrations are included. --Reference Research Book News