

Charlotte Bergan Cioli

The Weekender

MADRID

COLLECTIVE SHORTS

by Lebled Soloviev Editions

To my husband Alessandro.
You make any place we are together feel like home.

“Madrid is not a city, but a way of life.” – Ernest Hemingway

I never expected Madrid to become home. I arrived here not because of any long-held desire, but for something simpler: love. Madrid is where I first met my husband.

After a shared chapter in Paris, we decided to trade our French croissants for pan con tomate, our Champagne for vermouth, and our Camembert cheese for gilda pintxos. It took me some time to adjust during those first months in Madrid, but in the two years since, the city has become a place I truly appreciate every day.

Madrid is a city of ease and great energy. Afternoons stretch into long evenings, conversations run late, and food is as diverse as any cosmopolitan capital. Over time, I learned to stop comparing Madrid with Paris and somewhere between my morning coffees in Chamberí and countless evening strolls, I fell quietly in love with it.

This book is not just a wander through a simple staycation. It’s a weekend dedicated to rediscovering Madrid; not as a resident but as a guest with fresh eyes. My husband and I checked into Casa de las Artes and let those three days become a visual diary of the center of the city: Chueca, Salamanca, Las Letras, La Latina, even a touch of Chamberí. Each neighborhood offers something different in terms of architecture, shops, restaurants, and general ambience.

Choosing my favorites is nearly impossible as the city offers you so many possibilities. But in this book I’ve gathered the places that I return to again and again, the ones that made me feel connected to Madrid long before I could call it my hometown.

I invite you to join me on this Thursday-through-Sunday wander through the heart of the capital. It isn’t a checklist of monuments, but a portrait of the city as I’ve come to know it: warm, elegant, friendly, and always full of life. Perhaps you will discover Madrid has a place in your heart too.

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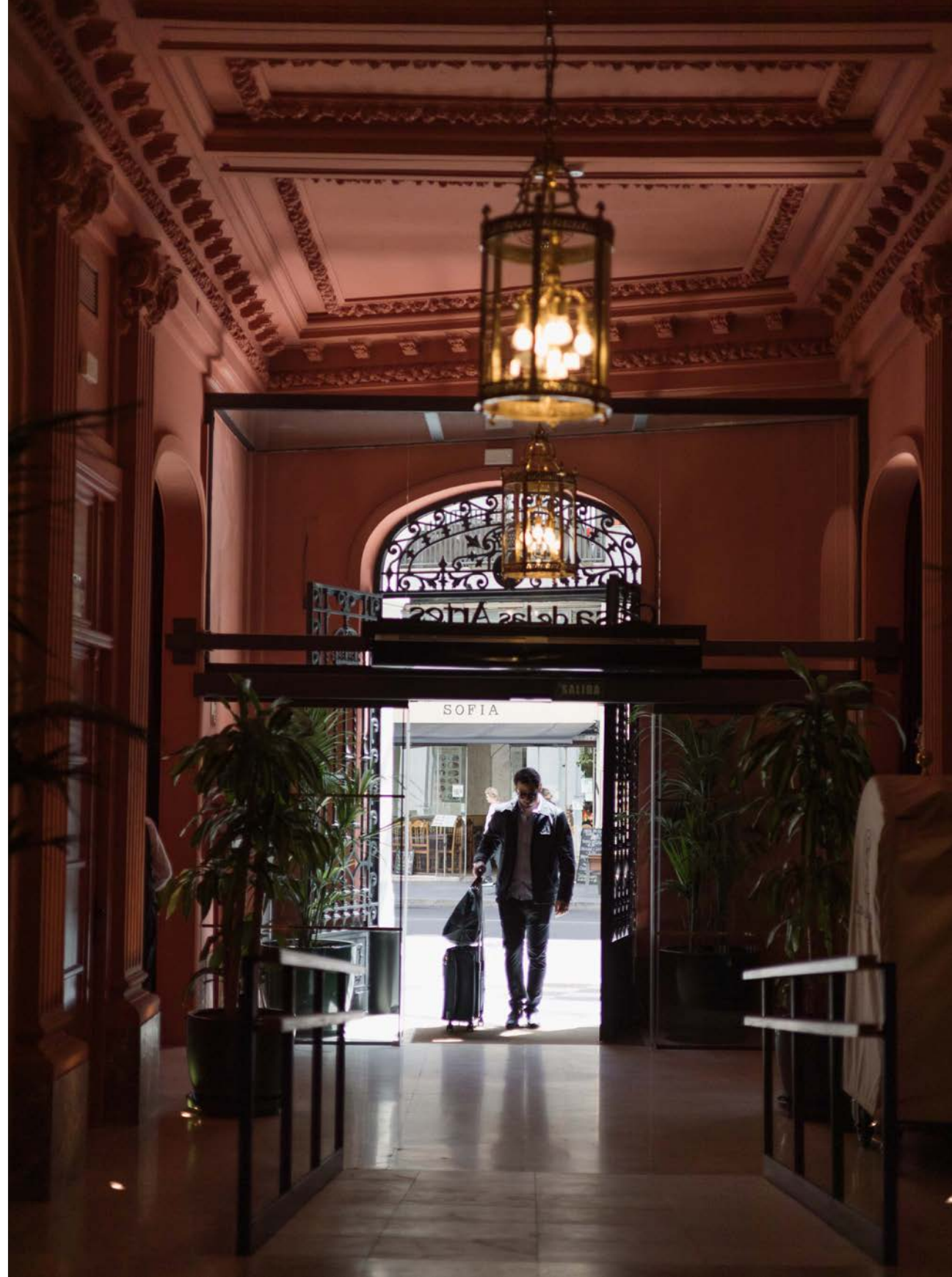


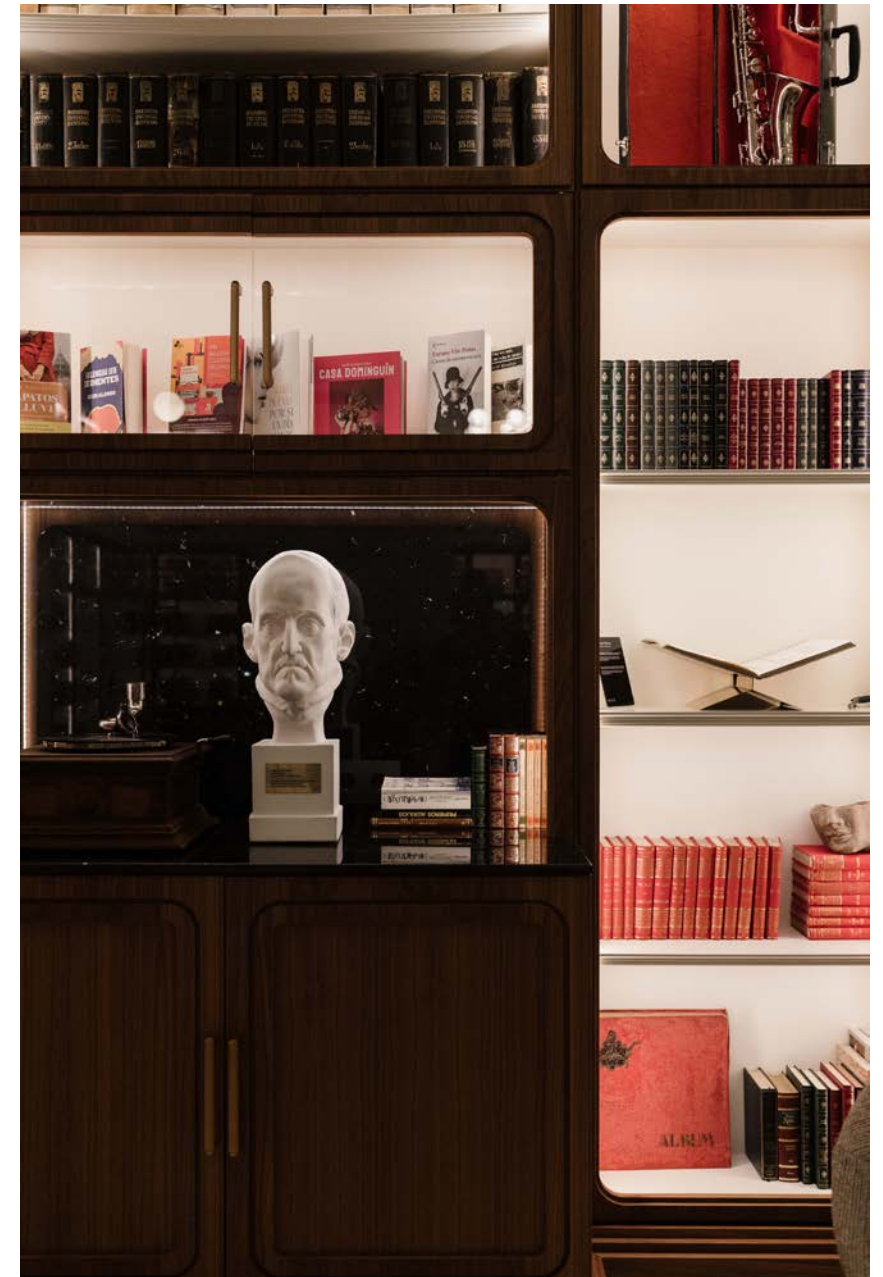
Thursday



Check into Casa de Las Artes

Thursday 4:00 PM





Thursday 4:15 PM

Explore the library



Settle into our room

Thursday 4:30 PM





Thursday 5:30 PM

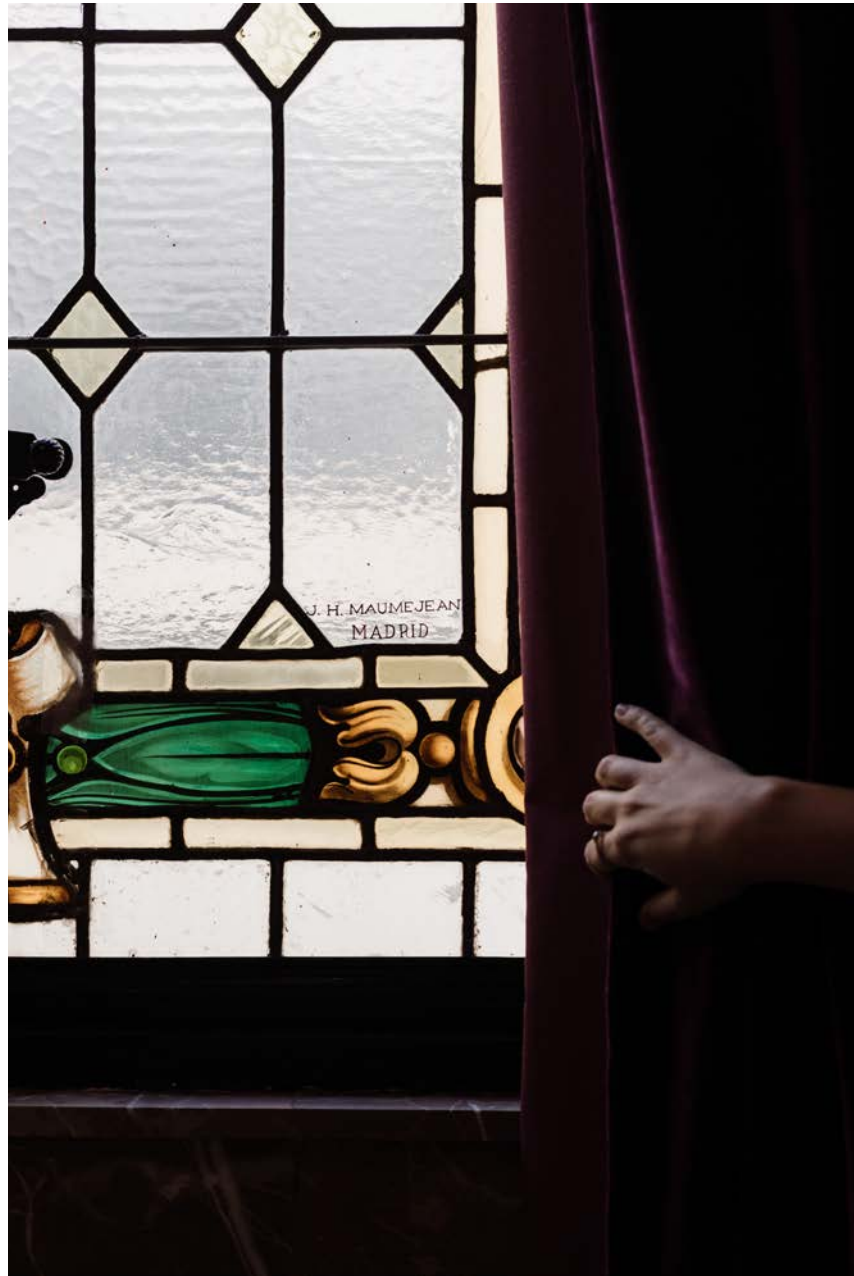
Stroll around the area by Calle de Atocha



Mental note: check movie times

Thursday 5:54 PM





Historic elements of the hotel



Thursday 7:15 PM