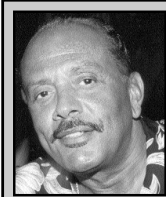


# Cool Sounds in Spain this Summer

**July Jazz Festivals in Basque Country, Valencia and Canary Islands; Wynton Marsalis, Paco de Lucía, Tribute to New Orleans at Vitoria Jazz Fest**



**Travel With  
John Daye**

MADRID, Spain, April 18, 2006 – The cool sounds of hot jazz will fill the warm skies of Spain this summer. Four jazz festivals will take place in July in Vitoria-Gasteiz and San Sebastian in the Basque Country, in the city of Valencia and on the island of Gran Canaria, with two more set for the fall (Barcelona's in October and Madrid's in November).

The 30th Annual Festival of Jazz of Vitoria-Gasteiz – one of Spain's most important music events – takes place July 8 to 15. A star-studded roster includes Wynton Marsalis, Paco de Lucía, Sergio Mendes and Sonny Rollins, whom the Village Voice calls the "last great jazz immortal." The festival offers music lovers a choice of several venues to hear the cool sounds.

Big star performances will take place at the 4,000-seat Mendizorroza Sports Arena. New and experimental jazz groups will headline at the Antzokia Principal Theatre. After the main concerts, some local clubs feature jam sessions that go on till dawn. Kicking off the festival at a gala inaugural on July 8 is the Brad Mehldau Trio.

On July 9, a "New Orleans Picnic" will be dedicated to the Big Easy and will feature: The Dukes of Dixieland, Dr. Michael White Quartet and The Spirit of New Orleans All Star Jazz Band. For "Electronic Night" on July 10, the acid jazz group Incognito will make its Basque Country

debut on a program with Medeski Martin & Wood. The highlight of the festival will bring together two renowned musicians in an unusual performance on July 11: Grammy-winner Wynton Marsalis and flamenco great Paco de Lucía. The next night will feature the world premiere of a new work by Marsalis with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

Other noted jazz greats at the festival will be: July 13th, Sergio Mendes; July 14th, Enrique Morente and Michel Camilo & Tomatito; July 15th, Sonny Rollins (in his only European concert in July); Running concurrently from July 10 to 15 will be "Jazz of the 21st Century:" July 10th, Javier Vercher Sexteto; July 11th, Lizz Wright; July 12th, The Bad Plus; July 13th, Mina Agossi; July 14th, The Kenny Garrett Quartet.

For the third year the festival will include the 7th Jazz Seminar with the collaboration of the Juilliard School of New York. Open to music students and professional musicians, the seminar offers workshops and one master class taught by Marsalis. On July 15, the final concert of the "Jazz of the 21st Century" series will be performed by professors of the Juilliard School of New York.

Programs for Spain's other jazz festivals will be announced shortly. Check the web sites for information: 15th International Jazz Festival of Gran Canaria July 1-10; www.canariasjazz.com 10th Festival of Jazz in Valencia July 10-20; www.palauvalencia.com 41st International Jazz Festival of San Sebastian July 21-26, www.jazzaldia.com International Jazz Festival of Barcelona October 26-December 4; www.the-project.net 23rd Festival of Jazz of Madrid November 1-December; 1 www.munimadrid.es

For information about the Jazz Festival of Vitoria-Gasteiz, call 011-34-945-14-19-19, fax 011-34-945-13-02-



Wynton Marsalis

87 or email: jazzvitoria@jazzvitoria.com or go to www.jazzvitoria.com Many of the city's hotels offer packages that include tickets to the festival. After May 2, tickets will be available on line. For information about traveling to Spain, contact your travel agent or the Tourist Office of Spain in New York (212-265-8822); Miami (305-358-1992); Chicago (312-642-1992) or Los Angeles (323-658-7188) or go to www.spain.info

# Grenada Record Increase in United Kingdom Visitors

By Linda Straker, eTN Grenada-

The Statistics Department of the Grenada Board of Tourism is reporting a significant increase in visitors from the United Kingdom. According to Public Relations Officer of the Board Mr. Edwin Frank, United Kingdom arrivals in January 2006 increase by 88.78 percent. "There were a total of 2575 visitors compared to 1364 for the same month in 2005 accounting for 22.49% of its tourism market share, which is second to the United States arrival figures for the same period.

Frank said that 75% of the British visitors stayed in hotels, apartments or guest houses while close to 50% spent an average of 14 nights on the island. Before the devastation from the hurricanes Grenada had a 1600

hotel rooms. At present 87% of these room are back in operations and the marketing department of these hotels are targeting the United Kingdom market.

The increase in visitors from that market, according to a statement from the Board is positive news for hoteliers who have upgraded and refurbished their facility following the devastation caused by Hurricanes Ivan and Emily in 2004 and 2005 respectively. "They are now reaping the

benefits of their investment," said a statement from the Board.

British Airways, Virgin Atlantic and Excel Airways make weekly stops at Point Salines International Airport, the island's lone airport which is located within close proximity to all the major hotels.

"The return of the British visitors is very encouraging", commented recently appointed Director of Tourism, Jocelyn Sylvester-Gairy. "The Island has worked very hard to repair the damage incurred and I am confident that the new and improved product will continue to attract an increasing number of British visitors", she said while pointing out that Future developments which will further enhance the island's offering include a Sandals Resort and a Prickly Bay Residential Property".

This positive development from the UK tourism market is strengthening the marketing tool for a 15-member delegation that will be in the UK and Ireland on a promotional tour during last week of the April 2006.

Headed by the Hon. Brenda Hood, Minister of Tourism, and supported by well-known sports personalities - Allan Lamb and Jason Roberts, the campaign will commit to

***"As Grenada continues to pride itself as a destination ideal for soft adventure activities and for rest and relaxation, there's a related appreciation that given its rich cultural heritage, events like the Maroon Music Festival and the Grenada Drum Festival are adding further quality and value to the product."***

informing the travel trade and consumer about the readiness of Grenada to welcome more visitors for upcoming festivals and celebrations.

Upcoming events include the Annual Carriacou Maroon Music Festival which will be held the last weekend in April and the annual Drum Festival which will be held the first weekend in May. The three-day Maroon Festival will highlight the traditional music and dance of the Carriacou people, as well as those from neighboring Caribbean islands.

Slated to begin on April 28, 2006 with the traditional wetting of the ground and blowing of the horn, patrons will be able to share in the consumption of the maroon food while examining the exhibits at the Arts and Craft Fair.

Frank said that these events have continued to improve annually and they serve to inspire confidence among visitors about the availability of activities that add flavour and quality to their experience. "As Grenada continues to pride itself as a destination ideal for soft adventure activities and for rest and relaxation, there's a related appreciation that given its rich cultural heritage, events like the Maroon Music Festival and the Grenada Drum Festival are adding further quality and value to the product," he said.

# Bargain Packages to Spain Are TourCrafters' Newest Offer

Libertyville, IL, April 17, 2006/eTN TravelPress —With Spain celebrating the 125th anniversary of Picasso's birth and being hailed as the "food capital of Europe," not to mention exciting new architecture and a vibrant museum scene, there's never been a better time to visit. And TourCrafters makes it a bargain through May 30 with three specials that start at \$799.

The "Barcelona Springtime Special," which starts at \$799 for four nights, covers round-trip air from New York, Boston, Chicago, Washington or Miami to Barcelona; accommodations at the centrally-located 3-star Hotel Covadonga or Hotel Open; daily breakfast and hotel service charges and taxes.

The 4-day/3-night "Madrid Deluxe Special" package starts at \$809 and includes mid-week round-trip air from New York and Boston to Madrid, accommodations at the 5-star Hotel Occidental Miguel Angel, daily breakfast and hotel service charges and taxes. The deluxe hotel, located

on the Paseo de la Castellana, offers easy access to the city's most famous museums. Add-on fares from other gateways are \$10 from Washington and \$15 from Miami and Chicago.

Beach lovers will like the 8-day/7-night "Madrid & Costa del Sol Special," which starts at \$999 midweek for round-trip air from New York or Boston; three nights in Madrid at the Hotel Puerta de Toledo and four nights in the village of Mijas at the modern, beachfront Gran Hotel Costa del Sol; plus five days car rental; daily breakfast; hotel service charges and taxes. For only \$60, four dinners can be added to the Gran Hotel stay. Add-on fares are \$10 from Washington and \$15 from Miami and Chicago.

All prices are per person, double occupancy, are subject to availability and do not include airport taxes or fuel surcharges. Reservations must be paid for within 72 hours. For more information, visit www.tourcrafters.com . For reservations, call 800-482-5995.

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