

Singing in Caves and Cathedrals

From Lisbon, via Sao Bras to Seville, down to Gibraltar, up past

tour round Lisbon with our Insight Travel tour manager who organised coaches,



then backstage after a Flamenco performance and the next day we were invited by a group of women to join them in a party on their roof-top. They sang in three-part harmony and were bowled over hearing the four-part Barbershop sound. This is a group that Patsy will encourage to join Sweet Adelines. In between all this activity, we had time to soak up the atmosphere, wander round the alleys and take trips on the river.

Going south to Gibraltar, we sang in the caves – the resonance was like singing in a mighty cathedral - 'awesome' as many of us agreed. On the way up north to Madrid, we stopped in Cordoba

where there is a clash of architectural cultures - a Christian church built inside a mosque. Singing there was a very moving experience.

In Madrid, one of the highlights was singing in a 'Centro Cultural' concert between two male Barbershop quartets, the Four Tune Tellers and the Investigators. All the singers are Spanish and members of SABS (Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers). The Investigators were going on to compete in the Barbershop Harmony Society International Festival in Philadelphia. I never realised that there is Barbershop in Spain, but this is the kind of

link that Patsy Meiser's pre-tour research can make. Young women in the audience, when they talked to us afterwards, spoke of their joy at hearing Barbershop and I'm sure this is another connection Patsy will nurture.

When I relayed the tales of my travels to some of my chorus, they wondered if we could go on a similar trip. The answer is 'yes' – in 2012 Patsy is looking to take a chorus to France. She will make the connections for performances and Insight Travel will co-ordinate coaches and hotels.

I'm saving up already – watch this space!
www.tropicalharmony.com

Cordoba to Madrid and ending up in Barcelona is a great tour in itself, but combined with Barbershop singing, it becomes an incomparable experience.

There were 40 of us who met in Lisbon, coming from the USA, Canada and GB. We had our first rehearsal, under the direction of Patsy Meiser, and had a

hotels, excursions, and travel timetables. Our first sing-out was in the theatre in the grounds of a cork museum, near Faro. We shared a concert with a newly formed group called 'Bella A Cappella' – probably the first up and coming Barbershop group in Portugal.

In Seville we sang in the Cathedral Chapter House,

Champagne is 25!

This year Champagne Cornwall Chorus has celebrated 25 years.

To do this we held a show at the Keay Theatre on the 2nd of July. We were lucky enough to have The City of Gardens Chorus over from Canada and Mevagissy Male Voice Choir. At the end of the show City of Gardens and Champagne sang 'Good Ol' Accapella together, then we invited Mevagissy on

stage to sing an 8 part arrangement of You Raise Me Up. It was lovely to see so many people who share a love for harmony up on stage.

Afterwards we held a mini afterglow where more singing went on, where past and present Barbershoppers were singing together in harmony.

Lauren Bailey
Champagne Cornwall Chorus

Spinnaker proudly presents:

JUST GOES TO SHOW...

...singing songs from Broadway



**International Medalist Quartet
Ringmasters**



**Premier A Cappella Group
Vox Concordia**



Introducing JaZZmine – ladies Barbershop quartet

**New Theatre Royal • Portsmouth
October 16th**

Tickets available from the Box Office 023 9264 9000

Stalls £15 • Dress circle £15 • Upper dress circle £10

Concessions available

For details, visit www.spinnakerchorus.co.uk