



♥ VALENTINE IN VERONA

It's difficult to find a more passion-wired destination than the city that inspired Shakespeare to write *Romeo and Juliet* – especially as V-day is celebrated here with Verona In Love (12–14 February; www.veronainlove.it), a three-day festival of amorous events ranging from poetry readings and classical recitals to romantic letter writing contests. Work up your own appetite with a wander in the statue-studded avenues of Renaissance garden Giardino Giusti, then stroll to La Vecchia Fontanina (5 Piazzetta Chiavica) a popular antiques-decorated *osteria* serving the best beef risotto Amarone in town, before snuggling up at Il Sogno Di Giulietta (23 Via Cappello, www.sognodigiulietta.it) a luxury boutique hotel situated just beneath the balcony where Juliet was once wooed by Romeo.



♥ MAD ABOUT MÁLAGA

From Pablo Picasso to Antonio Banderas, the list of Latin lovers hailing from Iberia's hip, hot southern city is endless. Start the day with Banderas' favourite brekkie, pastry churros and hot chocolate at legendary local bakery Casa Aranda (3 Herrería del Rey). Climb to the top of town and canoodle as



you admire stunning views from the 10th-century Gibralfaro castle, then descend to 17th-century renaissance Buenavista palace (8 Palacio de Buenavista San Agustín, www.2.museopicassomalaga.org) to admire Picasso's masterpieces. Bed down at Hotel Larios (2 Calle Marqués de Larios, tel: +34 952 222 200), the stylish sleepy where Banderas and wife Melanie Griffith stay when they're in town.

♥ MAGICAL IN MURCIA

With its atmospheric old town and plethora of shops, magical Murcia is a great place for amorous mooching. Swing into narrow alleys around the Calle Trapería to find ceramics and jewellery that make ideal and thoughtful gifts, then indulge in an afternoon of pampering at Hotel Thalasia's spa (327-329 Avenida del Puerto, www.thalasia.com) in San Pedro del Pinatar. Chow down on the best local paella at La Gran Taberna (6 Avenida de la Libertad, tel: +34 968 244 522), then spend the night at the four-star Monasterio Santa Eulalia (Paraje de La Santa, Totana, tel: +34 968 487 004, www.monasteriosanta-eulalia.com) a former 16th-century monastery just outside of town.

GETTING THERE

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