

→ Tapas and Markets

If we were to survey all the tourists who have visited our city, there's no doubt that most would wistfully recall our tapas, those small appetizers Spaniards like to have with their drinks. There are myriad stories surrounding their origin, but one of the most popular is that bartenders used to place a saucer on top of glass-
es of wine to prevent flies from getting in (tapa is Spanish for “lid”). Over time, to the delight of their patrons, they started adding small salty snacks to the plates, like ham or olives, and thus the tapa was born. Nowadays, although you can still get free tapas in many establishments, you'll find practically any traditional dish can be ordered as a tapa to share. Madrid is brimming with bars serving wonderful snacks, but there are areas where *tapear*—going on a tapas crawl—happens almost by accident. In recent years, many traditional markets have been revamped and a range of food halls have sprung up around the city, boosting Madrid's already buzzing culinary scene. Offering flavours from all corners of the world, this is a city that knows that the true way to a visitor's heart is through their stomach.

We recommend that you check all of the times provided on esmadrid.com. All information is subject to change.

THE BEST AREAS FOR TAPAS

→ La Latina

METRO: La Latina

Around calle de la Cava Baja, you'll find what seems like an endless string of traditional bars and restaurants. Madrid's residents have even coined the term “Latinear” to describe the custom of bar hopping in the La Latina neighbourhood. On Sunday mornings it's a particularly popular place to meet friends for a vermouth, but on any day of the week you can grab a lip-smacking meal in a cosy establishment.



→ Lavapiés

METRO: Lavapiés

In recent years, Madrid's most multicultural neighbourhood has earned itself a reputation as an ideal place for tapas crawls. Here, you'll find classic Spanish *raciones* (sharing platters) alongside Indian, North African and Latin American culinary offerings. In autumn it hosts Tapapiés, a gastronomic festival which is livened up by street musicians and in which most of the area's bars and restaurants take part.

→ Barrio de las Letras

METRO: Antón Martín, Sevilla

Head to Plaza de Santa Ana square to discover a great selection of bars specialising in beer. And if you take a stroll down Calle de León or Calle de Huertas, towards Paseo del Prado, you'll come across some wonderful traditional pubs, many of them over a century old. The area is usually brimming with people visiting the marvellous museums on Paseo del Arte or heading to Teatro Español or Teatro de la Comedia to catch a show.

→ Chueca, Malasaña and Conde Duque

METRO: Chueca, Tribunal, Noviciado

The Chueca, Malasaña and Conde Duque neighbourhoods are not only known for their vibrant nightlife, they have also become fashionable places to go for lunch and dinner. In the area around Calle del Pez, Calle de la Libertad, Plaza de las Comendadoras and Plaza del Dos de Mayo, you'll find pubs, bars and pizzerias where you can enjoy a casual drink or bite to eat. There are also plenty of restaurants that have chosen to set up shop here, keen to soak up the laid-back atmosphere.



→ Chamberí

METRO: Alonso Cano, Quevedo, Bilbao

During the day, you'll find a wide range of places in the Chamberí district in which to grab a bite to eat. Calle de Ponzano is a great street to go for a few beers or a vermouth, and Plaza de Olavide is a popular spot to head to if you're looking to relax in an outdoor bar or café, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. For its part, the Almagro neighbourhood, especially Calle de Zurbano, is dotted with restaurants oozing sophistication, a great option for those in search of a spot of fine dining.

→ Ibiza

METRO: Ibiza

The bars, restaurants and outdoor cafés on and around Calle Ibiza boulevard—a stone's throw from El Retiro Park—are always packed with Madrid's residents, who often stop here for a quick bite to eat after a stroll through the city's green lung. Modern wine bars have sprung up next to time-honoured establishments, turning streets in the area (such as Menéndez Pelayo, Doctor Castelo, Narváez, Menorca and Lope de Rueda) into a little slice of heaven for food-loving families.



→ Ventas and El Carmen

METRO: Ventas, El Carmen

After crossing Plaza de Manuel Becerra roundabout, Calle de Alcalá—Madrid's longest street—transforms into the epicentre of an area bursting with traditional bars and restaurants that are particularly popular with people headed to Las Ventas bullring. Cross over the M-30 motorway and you'll find yourself in a bustling area filled with eateries frequented by residents of El Carmen neighbourhood.



→ Vallecas

METRO: Portazgo, Nueva Numancia, Puente de Vallecas

Avenida de la Albufera runs through the Puente de Vallecas district to the Villa de Vallecas district. Along this thoroughfare, shopping and entertainment zones alternate with more residential areas, and you'll find pubs steeped in decades of tradition as well as first-rate restaurants. The area around Rayo Vallecano's home stadium is a great place to go for tapas.

→ Usera

METRO: Usera

Located on the other side of the Manzanares River, the Usera district is famed for its selection of international eateries. A trip to this part of town, popular with both native and adopted *Madrileños*, invites you to embark on a culinary journey around the world. This area also has a large Chinese community so, unsurprisingly, it is home to some of the best Asian restaurants in all of Madrid.

→ Carabanchel

METRO: Marqués de Vadillo, Oporto, Vista Alegre

Carabanchel is built on a hill on the south bank of the Manzanares River. It's one of Madrid's most traditional areas, full of *tabernas* that have stood the test of time, and whose menus focus on seasonal cuisine. If you're hungry, just try to resist the house speciality at La Casa de los Minutejos: a serving of pig's ear, cut into strips and sandwiched between soft sliced bread.

→ El Pardo

BUS: 601 from Moncloa

Just a few kilometres from the city, El Pardo has every right to boast of its splendid natural setting: it's surrounded by one of Spain's best-preserved Mediterranean forests. Tradition demands that you have lunch in one of its restaurants, which are famous for their seasonal game dishes (wild boar, fallow deer, etc.). Over forty bars line its streets. They're always lively but even more so in summer, when they set up tables outdoors.



FOOD HALLS

→ San Miguel Market

Plaza de San Miguel, s/n
METRO: Sol, Ópera
INFO: Sunday-Thursday: 10am-12 midnight
Friday-Saturday and the eve of a public holiday: 10am-1am

A visit to this cast-iron market, built in 1916 next to Plaza Mayor, is now a top foodie experience in the area known as Madrid de los Austrias. Its stalls feature green grocers, butchers and bakeries offering gourmet products, alongside long bars where you can enjoy some wine and *tapas*.



→ San Ildefonso Market

Fuencarral, 57
METRO: Tribunal
INFO: Monday-Thursday & Sunday: 1pm-12 midnight
Friday-Saturday 1pm-1am

San Ildefonso is located next to the site of Madrid's first covered food market, demolished in 1970. It attracts both fashionistas after an afternoon shopping on Calle de Fuencarral and colleagues enjoying after-work drinks.



→ Yatai Market

Doctor Cortezo, 10
METRO: Tirso de Molina
INFO: Sunday-Thursday: 1pm-12.30am
Friday-Saturday: 1pm-1.30am

In this vibrant setting, Spain's first Asian market offers diners an immersive experience with the best street food from across the continent.

→ San Leopoldo Market

San Leopoldo, 8
METRO: Plaza de Castilla
INFO: Sunday-Wednesday: 11.30am-midnight
Thursday-Saturday: 11.30am-12.30am

The perfect spot to meet up and enjoy food and drinks in true Madrid fashion—that's what you'll find here, with 15 stalls presenting a wide range of options.



MARKETS

→ Antón Martín Market

Santa Isabel, 5
METRO: Antón Martín
INFO: Market: Monday-Friday 9am-9pm; Saturday 9am-3pm; Restaurants: Monday-Friday 9am-11.30pm; Saturday 3pm-6pm

Standing between Lavapiés and Barrio de las Letras, this picturesque food market has stalls with both indoor and outdoor seating. It is home to a number of bars and restaurants that are popular with locals and with visitors to Cine Doré, the cinema attached to the Filmoteca Española national film archive which is right next door.



→ Barceló Market

Barceló, 6
METRO: Tribunal
INFO: Monday-Friday: 9am-2.30pm and 5.30-8.30pm
Saturday: 9am-3pm
Dining area: 11am-1am

El Mercado de Barceló is the title of Almudena Grandes' 2003 collection of newspaper columns that she had been publishing for years in *El País*. Today, in addition to traditional market stalls, the ultra-modern building erected by the firm Nieto Sobejano also boasts a library, a gym and a decent range of eating options.



→ Chamberí Market

Alonso Cano, 10
METRO: Iglesia
INFO: Monday-Friday: 9.30am-2pm and 5-8pm; Saturday: 9.30am-2.30pm
Dining area: Tuesday-Saturday 12.30-4.30pm & 7pm-12 midnight; Sunday: 12.30-4.30pm

For decades, gourmands have regarded Chamberí as one of the best markets in the city both for the quality and the variety of its goods. Now it also features an area devoted to tapas (La Chispería), making it a great place to kick off a night near Calle de Ponzano and Plaza de Olavide.



→ La Paz Market

Ayala, 28
METRO: Serrano
INFO: Monday-Friday: 9am-8pm
Saturday: 9am-2.30pm

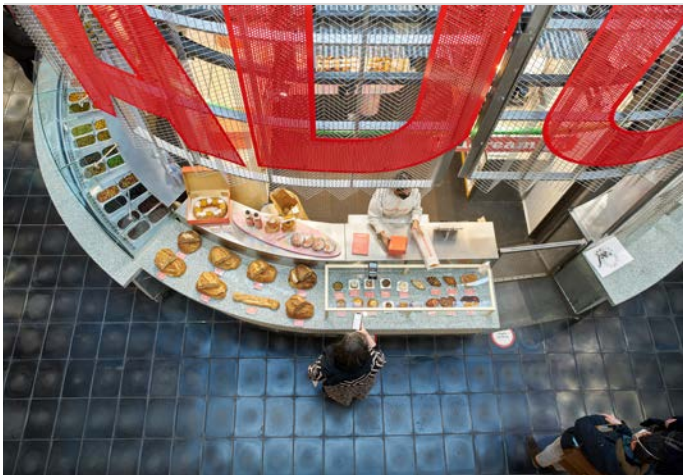
Located on one of the rectangular blocks that are characteristic of the “Ensanche de Madrid” city expansion project, this market is the closest thing the Barrio de Salamanca neighbourhood has to a main square. Locals not only shop at its stalls but also frequent its bars, which have superb offerings and are the perfect place to end a stroll through the area's most bustling streets: Serrano, Ortega y Gasset and Claudio Coello.



→ San Antón Market

Augusto Figueroa, 24
METRO: Chueca
INFO: First floor: Monday-Saturday 9.30am-9.30pm
Second floor: Monday-Sunday 12 noon-12 midnight
Third floor: Monday-Sunday 1pm-1am

In the heart of the Chueca neighbourhood, which has been the epicentre of the LGBTQ+ community for years, you'll find one of the city's trendiest markets. A great option whether you're looking for fresh produce or ready-to-eat gourmet goodies, San Antón has everything from fishmongers, butchers and green grocers to tapas and drinks bars. Don't miss the rooftop terrace looking out over the lively neighbourhood.



→ San Fernando Market

Embajadores, 41
METRO: Lavapiés
INFO: Monday: 9am-2.30pm and 5.30pm-9pm
Tuesday-Saturday: 9am-10pm
Sunday: 11am-6pm

A few years ago, a handful of enthusiastic business owners embarked on a mission to help San Fernando rise from the ashes. The result is a bustling market off the beaten track where delicatessen stalls and bars serving wine, beer, cheese and cold meats have set up shop alongside traditional butchers and green grocers.



→ Tirso de Molina Market

Doña Urraca, 15
METRO: Puerta del Ángel
INFO: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-8.30pm
Thursday-Saturday: 9am-11pm
Sunday: 11am-5pm

In the Puerta del Ángel neighbourhood, not far from Madrid Río Park, you'll find this market, with its distinct brick façade, that dates back to 1932. The structure of the building still shows evidence of the shells that struck it during the Spanish Civil War.



→ Vallehermoso Market

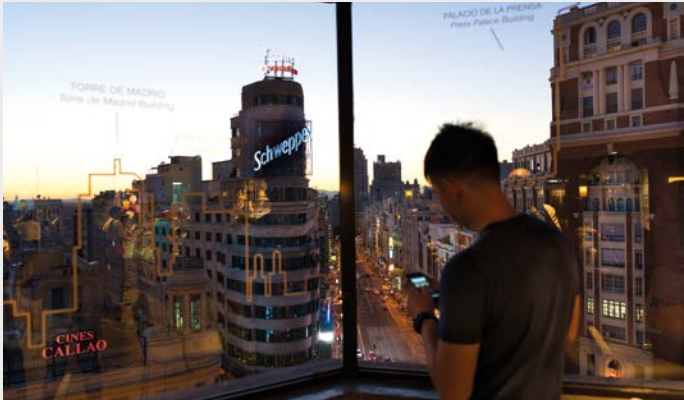
Vallehermoso, 36
METRO: Canal, Quevedo
INFO: Monday-Thursday: 9am-11pm
Friday-Saturday: 9am-12 midnight
Sunday: 12.30-5pm

In addition to a large selection of eateries, the Chamberí district is also home to a number of food markets. Housed in a wonderful cast-iron building that first opened in 1933, Vallehermoso Market is a popular meeting place for locals. You'll find it near Teatros del Canal and Teatro de la Abadía, in the Arapiles neighbourhood.



A GOURMET EXPERIENCE

Over the past few years, El Corte Inglés department store has opened a number of food courts selling gourmet products to take away and featuring stalls serving drinks and top-notch fare. The first to open was the one at Plaza de Callao, which boasts spectacular views of Gran Vía avenue, with those on Calle de Goya (No. 87), in the Castellana area (No. 65 Calle de Raimundo Fernández Villaverde) and in the Campo de las Naciones business district (No. 50 Avenida de los Andes) soon following suit. Opening hours for the food courts sometimes differ from those of the rest of the store, meaning you can enjoy a drink and a snack till midnight.





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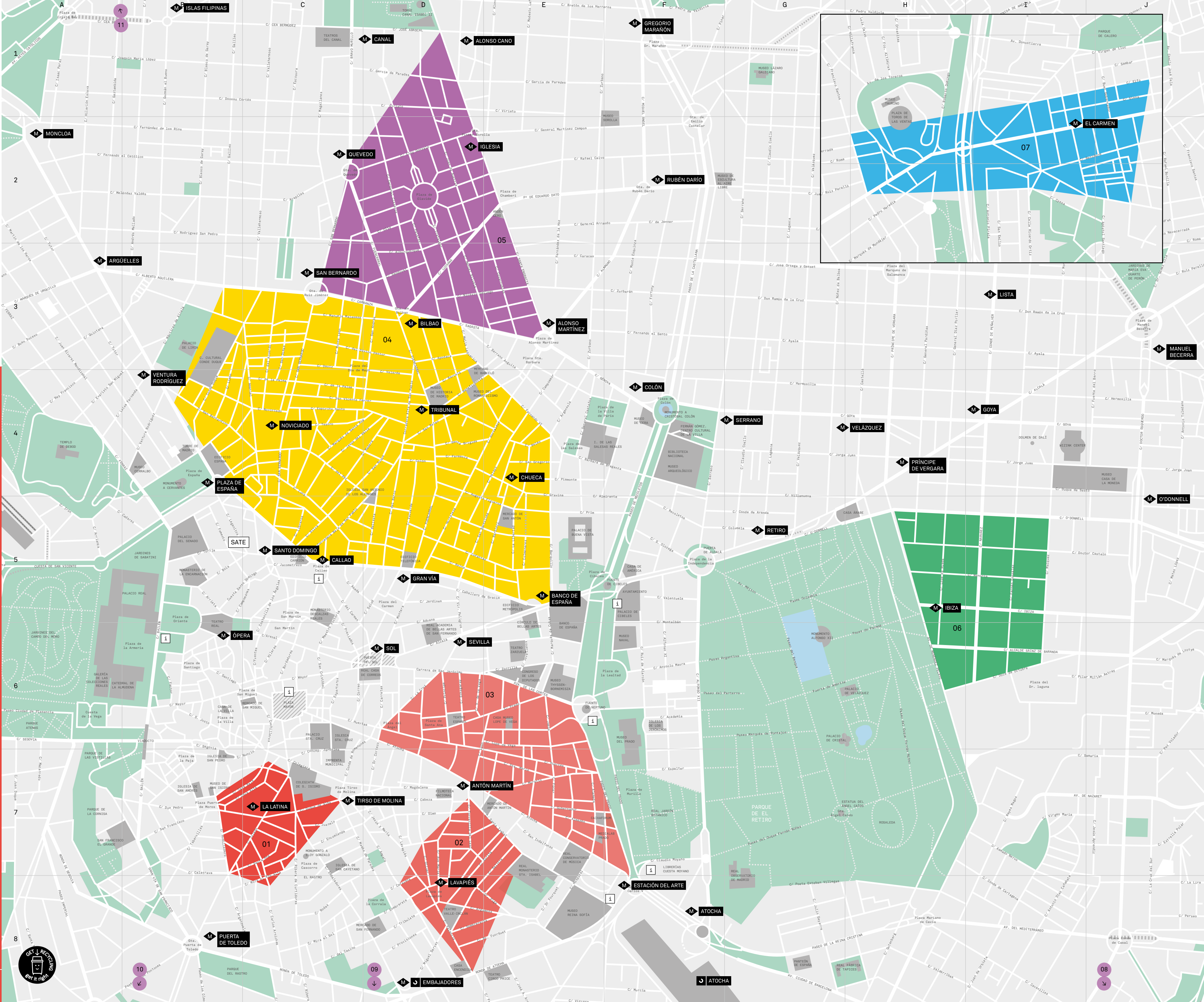
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