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Basque Country, Discovery & Connection: Sights, Sounds, And Tastes Of The Basque Country



Synopsis

Basque Country Discovery & Connections Sights, Sounds and Tastes of the Basque Country Vicky Ayala Richardson has taken a very long and winding road to discover her Basque roots. However, once discovered, she has been single minded in her approach to connecting with the sights, sounds and tastes which are Basque. Collected directly from the Basque lands and brought together in her book, Basque Country Discovery & Connections, its pages over flow with the unique quality of place and people. Basque Country Discovery & Connection is an overview of the Basque Country, including its location, history, nationalism, language, Diaspora, and global contributions. The heart of this study is devoted to the Ayala family history beginning in 790 AD and describes the important role of Don Pedro Lopez de Ayala (1332-1407), Chancellor of Spain. Portrayal of the Basque experience; its national holidays, festivals, and market days, invite the reader to enjoy the life style of the Basques. Also covered are descriptions of Basque culture: the importance of the family name, mythology, poetry (Bertsolari), folklore, music, folk dancing, fine arts, architecture, the Guggenheim Museum, Victor Hugo, Ernest Hemingway, and the national card game, Mus. Sports is an integral part of Basque society - from soccer, games and competitions of strength and endurance, pelota/jai alai, the running of the bulls in Pamplona, and the trekking experience on the Way of St. James. Coverage of Basque wine and cuisine introduces readers to Txakoli and Rioja wine, Ayala Champagne, the connection of chocolate with Bayonne, and popular Basque recipes. A brief description of Basque Country weather, flora, and fauna round out the reader's Basque experience. Basque Country Discovery & Connection is a photo book and travel guide which also provides a cultural view, Basque recipes, and an eye-opening discussion of Basque history and achievements. Central to the inspiration for this book is the genealogy of the Ayala family and their place of historical importance in the Basque Country and Spain. Bibliography, References, Acknowledgements, Resources and Index are also included.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Born in Guatemala and raised in the United States, Vicky Richardson was aware of her Guatemalan connection but never questioned her real roots. All her experiences and references to family ties and customs suddenly became clear once she was introduced to the Basque Culture. Vicky's background in the arts, both as a practitioner and teacher, along with her training and practice of graphic design, has made it possible for her to meet the challenge of crafting a book which brings to light who and what are the Basque people and the Basque Country. Vicky has a wide range of loves and interests in her life. She has been a bi-lingual secretary, bookkeeper, graphic designer, real estate investor, middle school art teacher, ceramicist instructor, restaurant owner/manager, gallery director, photographer, wife and mother of four children and grandmother of 13.

Wow! Just received this book today. It is beautiful and informative. I love the recipes which have a certain twist to them even if they seem familiar. I've made a cherry soup like the one in the book and love it. We serve it cold in the summertime. The layout even in the reference section is interspersed with beautiful illustrations. What a work of love of art, history, and food. Thank you for a truly amazing addition to my library

While many travel guides offer the ingredients to a great recipe, this book about the Basque Country adds the flavor, smells and colors of what to expect when visiting. Take the time to study the beautiful pictures and soak up the information. I feel like I've been, and look forward to visiting this enchanting corner of the world.

The author's artistic skills bring the Basque culture alive in this complete overview of the Basque country. Every aspect of the culture is highlighted with easy to read text and colorful pictures. The author's attention to details would be a great assist in planning a trip. Unlike a previous review I felt the soft cover edition was more than adequate, there is also a hard bound edition available.

I am really disappointed. Very little and superficial pieces of information (or dull and irrelevant). No travel advice (although on the cover it says "travel guide"), no tips what to visit, etc...Nice photos,

though. I opened the book and it instantly fell apart (the binding does not hold well). Very low value for such high price.

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