Seville is home to the most enduring Spanish stereotypes. Here, flamenco dancing, bullfights, relentlessly blue skies and fiery fiestas are an everyday reality. And its Moorish architecture, labyrinthine alleys and atmospheric tapas bars make for a captivating weekend escape.

Just two hours from the UK, it’s become even more accessible since easyJet started flying to the city from Gatwick last year, giving an alternative to the Ryanair service.

There are sights aplenty. It’s worth getting clients a Seville Tourist Card, a pass available for one, two or three days that includes admission to museums, monuments and attractions, and discounts in restaurants and shops. Cresta Holidays offers this from £33. But between all the churches, art galleries and museums, make sure your clients leave time to simply soak up the Sevillanos’ way of life.

**Day One**

10.00: Breakfast with the locals at Horno San Buenoventura on Avenida Constitución, on the corner of Seville Cathedral. Order tostado with ripe tomatoes and cafe con leche, sit at a pavement table and watch the world go by.

11.00: Be staggered by the sheer size and gothic beauty of the cathedral. Completed in the 16th century, it is the largest gothic cathedral in the world and attracts hordes of tourist groups, so it’s best to get there in time for its opening at 11am.

Visitors are free to wander and wonder at its impressive collection of treasures, including Christopher Columbus’s tomb, but guided tours are also available. Time and energy
permission, it’s well worth scaling the 35 ramps to the top of the Giralda bell tower for magical views over the city.

13.00 Lunch at nearby Extraverde, a shop-come-tapas bar in one of Seville’s prettiest squares. Dishes includeMOUSSAKA, caper nuts with sour apple.

15.00 After lunch, meander through the tiny alleys of Seville’s oldest district, Barrio Santa Cruz. The former Jewish ghetto has become more touristy in recent years, with a few tacky souvenir shops springing up, but remains one of the most picturesque areas of the city.

Lose yourself in its maze of whitewashed-orange-lined streets and you’ll stumble across hidden whitewashed orange-lined streets picturesque areas of the city.

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17.00 Easy to miss, the Museo de la Inquisicion houses the remains of Castillo San Jorge, the seat of the Spanish Inquisition, where thousands of people were imprisoned during one of the darkest periods of Spanish history.

18.00 Escape the scorching Spanish sun with a paseo through the sprawling Parque Maria Luisa, among opulent buildings built for the city’s exposition in 1929. The highlight is the Plaza de Espana, known as “the Venice of Seville”. The Renaissance-style building is set behind a canal.

21.00 If by now you’re hankering for a change from tapas, you can’t go wrong with Osteria L’Oca Giulia, a charming Italian in the Santa Cruz district.

Alternatively, the museum is well worth a visit, to see the chapel where the matadors pray, the infirmary where they’re patched up, bull’s heads, and matadors’ costumes.

15.00 Pause for lunch at Flores Jamones and Vinos, a mecca for lover of Spanish ham and cheese.

16.00 Stroll back over the bridge to Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza, one of Spain’s most famous bull rings. Bull fights are still held today, but whether you’re a fan of the ancient sport or not, the museum is well worth a visit to see the chapel where the matadors pray, the infirmary where they’re patched up, bull’s heads, and matadors’ costumes.

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Historically, Seville has been a centre of bullfighting, this part of the city’s history as Plaza de Espana or Real Alcazar.

Originally built to accommodate international dignitaries for the 1929 Great Exposition, the Hotel Alfonso XIII is an iconic a part of the city’s history as Plaza de Espana or Real Alcazar.

A $25 million renovation has renewed but not modernised the hotel’s historic architecture, from the vividly painted tiles in the lobby to the lavish frescoes above soaring arched passageways and the gleaming marble staircase.

Shade-seekers can enjoy a series of opulent indoor lounges – all with a unique design and atmosphere – surrounding an inner courtyard, but I loved the outdoor lounge with its nautical style and high-backed wicker chairs, where well-heeled locals and guests sip cocktails in the baking summer’s heat.

Next to a newly expanded fitness centre and yoga garden, the peace of the swimming pool is disturbed only by the noise of horses clippng by, escorting tourists around the city’s sights. However, while the refurbishment has undoubtedly been a success, the service lags behind. The rather surly waiters set a strange contrast with the rest of the city’s friendly service.

Book it: Kirker Holidays offers three nights’ B&B at Hotel Alfonso XIII from £998, including flights from London and private car transfers. 020 7593 2288

Do Something Different offers day trips to Seville from Madrid, Granada and resorts on the Costa del Sol.

TRIED AND TESTED: Hotel Alfonso XIII

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DESTINATIONS — SPAIN