

# Spain and

## **An Andalusian Alphabet of Oriental Delights**

Almond, Aloe, Ambra, Anise,  
Apricot, Balsam, Bay Laurel,  
Belladonna, Bergamot,  
Carob, Celery, Cinnamon,  
Clove, Couscous, Cocoa,  
Caper, Cardamon, Cassia,  
Coffee, Cumin, Curcuma,  
Date, Eggplant, Figs, Fennel,  
Frankincense, Garam Masala,  
Ginger, Grape, Honey,  
Jasmine, Lemon, Lime, Mace,  
Marjoram, Marzipan, Melon,  
Mint, Musk, , Myrrh, Nutmeg  
, Olive, Orange, Oregano,  
Pepper, Peach, Pistacio,  
Pomegranate, Quince,  
Raisins, Rose, Rosemary,  
Saffron, Sandalwood, Sesame,  
Tamarind, Thyme, Violet,  
Wine

*Eucalyptus lines the ascent  
to Mt. Santa Tekla, the  
site of a Celtic settlement  
from around 3000 BC.  
Apparently predating the  
Celtic influx to Ireland by more than 1000  
years. Bagpipes are the characteristic  
instrument of Galicia and the natives of this  
northernmost province of Spain proudly claim  
that Galicia indeed is the "Corazon Celta."*

# its aromatic history

“If you have two Dirhams take one to buy a loaf of bread for the stomach and take the other to buy hyacinths for the soul”. With this proverb the the Spanish Moores did say more about themselves than with the momentous events of their whole history. Spending half of one’s assets on a fragrance reflects a view of life which does not find any counterpart in our materialistic world, where we are so used to characterize everything by its monetary value. But, really, what price does the fragrance of a flower or the

bouquet of a perfect old wine have? To live in the present and to enjoy beauty was a characteristic of the Spanish Moores. The very few remnants of their culture which have survived through time express this very clearly.

In the late middle ages with and because of its ideologically veiled crusades against the infidels the rich Moorish heritage was exorcised from the collective consciousness. Nonetheless western culture even today is inseparably influenced by all the advances of

civilization that arose from the peaceful side by side of Moores, Jews and Christians in the glorious times of Al Andalus. Exploring the culture of medieval Cordoba and Al Andalus for its appreciation of sensuality and its tremendously rich repertoire of aromatics spices and foods and dishes very likely produces the most unexpected revelations.

*The Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, one of Christianity’s most reveered pilgrimage destinations, boasts one of the largest Frankincense burners in the world*

