

# STAR GRAZING

THE BASQUE COUNTRY, SPAIN

## WHY GO?

Basque people are fiercely proud – visit northern Spain's verdant vineyards, lofty mountains, sun-soaked beaches and Michelin star-strewn restaurants and you'll realise why. You'll come home tired, happy and a little bit fat.

## THE TOP FIVE



Eat at the famed Arzak in San Sebastián



See Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum



Trek to Gaztelugatxe on the Biscay coast



Take an oceanside hike up Monte Urgull



Feast on pintxos in San Sebastián

## WHERE TO STAY

Fly to Bilbao and – after a pit-stop at the Guggenheim – drive south past vineyards to secluded **Casona de Quintana**. Following a few sedantary days, make San Sebastián your final stop and stay at the cinema-themed **Astoria7**, whose rooms honour silver-screen heroes. Hungry? The town has the second-most Michelin stars per capita in the world.

### Basque in glory



Casona de Quintana  
Cultured country house  
Don't miss Nuria's home-cooking



Astoria7 Hotel  
Movie-star style in San Antonio  
Don't miss the film-themed library



## SOMETHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT

A journey across the Basque Country of northern Spain is the ultimate epicurean pilgrimage. From triple-Michelin-starred mastery in sparkling restaurants to rough-and-ready (but utterly delicious) pintxos, expect your taste buds to take a trip.

## WHEN TO GO

In summer, you'll share the sights with holidaying crowds from Madrid and Barcelona; if you want more elbow-room in the museums, bars and restaurants, come in autumn or spring.

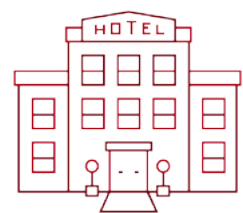
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