#### BOOKED FOR TRAVEL



### Sherry and Seville

SEVILLE.

TITH a beret, short pants, long socks, and a rifle, a single British soldier guards the entrance (and the landside exit) to Gibraltar. The Rock stands firm behind him, a symbol of the durability of the British Empire or of the Prudential Life Insurance Company, I'm not sure which. Under its shadow pass the sleepy donkey carts and the slick cars recently debarked from ships in from the States. Both cross into La Linea de la Concepçion, that dusty village from which the Spaniards have launched the centuries-old pressures to shake from Britain its calloused pied à terre that stands across from Africa like a turnstile at the entrance to the Mediterranean.

But the British outpost, and the Spanish designs upon it, are left behind by all except the most politicallyminded traveler in the tumultuous color of Andalusia. Aside from the eye-squinting, unrelenting white of the houses, there are the bulls and the bodegas. The bulls, glistening and black, fatten and grow strong (and presumably brave) on the roadside ranches against a furious end on some luckless Sunday afternoon. As for the bodegas, they are the sherry distilleries, and they cluster in the town of Jerez, their long lines of wooden casks filled with a reservoir of Spanish booze that will spread transitory sunshine to parlors around the world.

Nearly all of the planet's sherry is made in the town of Jerez, a metropolis of 100,000 winos who dote on flamenco, Spanish art, and the artful ways of producing sherry. Its former spelling, Xerez, wherein the Spanish x is pronounced like sh, probably accounts for the English name. The reason sherry is mainly made in Jerez are the chemicals in its soil, its fairly dry climate, and the tonic effect on the grapes of its nearness to the seaten miles.

When the season's grapes come in, a Feast of the Vintage is held in Jerez—fiestas in Spain have been staged for slimmer reasons—early in summer. The grapes are blessed in front of the cathedral and homing pigeons are released to fly all over the continent to announce that a new sherry has been born. Whether it derives from inhaling the local stuff or whether it is an inbred geniality is not clear to me, but the whole business of making a bottle of sherry out of a bunch

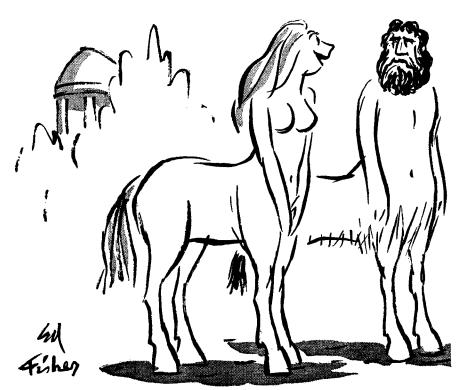
of grapes seems to be surrounded by an air of amiability in Jerez. In the Misa plant, for instance, there are colorful tableaus placed every now and then to relieve the monotony of the casks drawn up at parade rest. These little scenes depict a notion of what the world was about (galley slaves and enforced maritime servitude for penniless citizens) when sherry was already in flower; or perhaps they will show, in three dimensional figures, how sherry is harvested and manufactured. Sherry, a sherry-filled cicerone informed me, continues to breed in the vat, but vintage doesn't mean a thing. As a matter of fact, bottling it doesn't do it any good at all, and light sherries tend to worsen in glass.

Flowerpots and gardens brighten almost all the bodegas and Misa goes everybody else one or two better by keeping on hand a squad of storks who promenade up and down the company streets, a platoon of ducks who keep house in a pond in the company's park, and a pair of alligators. These toothy lads, are, happily, kept caged, but on view, where they sleep most of the time and answer

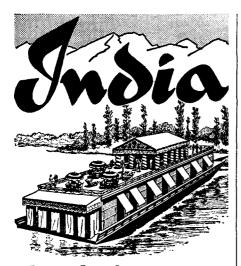
the hissing signals of the plant manager, a Spanish chap named Jose Pan Ferguson, with a hiss and a chomping of the jaws. I'm not so sure they do not consider him, for all his suavity, a Captain Hook in mufti.

The high point of any plant tour in Jerez is the tasting room, where all sorts of bottles are trotted out-light sherries brewed as aperitifs, dark sweet sherries meant for after-dinner drinking. On the rack are blue glasses for "blind tasting," and frequently there are high colors too for blind tasters. Before reason vanished I did manage to copy, I presume verbatim, a quotation of Shakespeare on the subject, in which he insisted that sherry "dries up all the foolish, dull, and cruddy vapors environing the brain, illumineth the face and impels the heart to deeds of courage.'

▮T was with just such an illuminated face that I was endowed with enough courage to tell the driver to push on towards Seville. Rain clouds glowered in what I had been assured was sunny Spain, but there was refuge in Seville's Alfonso XIII, a hotel that is a mass of tiles and fountains, of terrazzo floors and potted plants, brimming with suggestions of the Moors who occupied the city for over 500 years. Although a stay at the Alfonso XIII, which was built for a Spanish-American exposition many years ago, is rather like sojourning inside a seraglio, there is no disappointment in a visit to the



"Darling, the village blacksmith is having a sale . . ."



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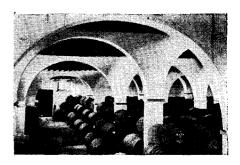
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Alcazar, built by the Moors both as a palace and a fortress. Spanish rulers, in residence or on tour, have occupied the Alcazar from Ferdinand III in 1248 to Franco today. It was a particular favorite of Charles V of Ghent who was a tenant from the years 1515 to 1558.

Isabella and Ferdinand, who will be remembered as the pair who dispatched Columbus westward to discover the Dominican Republic, fabled nesting place of soldiers and patriots, worshiped in a marvelous chapel of tiles which they had built for them by an Italian artisan. Among the tiles is one showing the clutch of arrows later adopted by the Falange. When in town Franco dines under the crystal chandeliers, cloistered by the faded tapestries of the banquet hall. From a balcony one can look across to the Alcazar's Hall of Ambassadors. From floor to balcony the hall is flecked with the gold installed by the Moorish landlords. Curved Arabian arches form the doorways, and up above are the lattice windows through which unseen dark eyes could watch the proceedings in the man's world below.

When Charles arrived he added four balconies in Renaissance style supported by Austrian eagles. Philip, the Duke of Anjou, the first Bourbon prince in Spain, added some gilded Gothic arches as well as the portraits of all the Visigothic kings who had passed through Spain. Peter the Just, also known among members of the loyal opposition as Peter the Cruel, had a bedroom walled from floor to ceiling with a mass of Moorish carvings. Its current furniture includes a ladies' make-up table and companion piece of solid silver with marble tops. a gift to Isabella II from the Sultan of Morocco.

Isabella II herself sits in a miniature family group sculpted in silver. At her side is her consort, Francisco, Isabel her daughter, Alfonso as a boy of perhaps ten, and his two baby



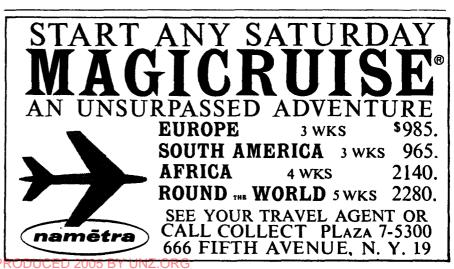
A bodega-"the sea's tonic effect."

sisters, Paz and Aulalia. Last of the group, Aulalia, died this spring at Irun. She was ninety-four.

Seville's other monument, not counting the tobacco factory where Carmen toiled, is its cathedral, the largest in Spain, the second largest in the world, and the only one in memory to charge admission (twenty cents). When Seville was taken by the Spaniards in 1248 the new inhabitants used the Moorish mosque that occupied this very site. The mosque was razed at the outset of the fifteenth century and work on the cathedral was begun in 1403. It was finished 103 years later.

FERDINAND III, who conquered the Moors and took the city, is buried in front of the altar in the Royal Chapel. He reposes in an elaborate silver casket made for him many years later by Philip V. The bishop holds conferences twice a month in an oval chapel room, so shaped that everyone can look at everyone else. Looking down on the canons and priests is a painting of the Immaculate Conception by Murillo, imbedded in the domed ceiling. Looking down, too, is a decorative ring of portraits of the patron saints of Seville.

No less awesome is the 600-pound, nine-foot-high solid silver Custodia made in 1582, which is used to hold the Sacrament on Corpus Christi Day. The first Custodia, made by the same



artist when he was twenty-one, was sent to the current Brussels Exposition, insured for 25 million pesetas. Among the church's other treasures is a large plate by Cellini, the emerald and diamond rings of Anillo Cardinal Spinola y Maestre, who preceded the famed, ultra-conservative late Cardinal Segura. Across the hall is a silver Custodia crusted with elaborate roses and figures, holding in its center a thorn from Christ's crown, donated by the daughter of Philip II. Also on hand is a relicario of gold, emeralds, and rubies containing a piece of wood from the table of the Last Supper, a piece of St. Peter's bone, a gold cross holding a wooden cross made from the true cross, and a lifelike wooden carving of the head of St. John the Baptist reposing on a silver platter.

For Americans, perhaps the most imposing sight is the tomb of Columbus. His alleged bones are sealed in a casket which is borne by four giant figures, each of which represents one of the four kingdoms of Spain-Leon, Castille, Aragon, and Navarre. A mammoth monument in bronze, it was, according to my official guide, brought from Cuba in 1899 after the Spanish-American War and placed upon its platform in the Seville Cathedral. If memory serves, the official guides of Havana are extracting Batista bucks for telling Norteamericanos that Columbus is still in Cuba. And years ago, after doubting in print the Dominican party line which insists that Colon is really in Ciudad Trujillo, I found myself in receipt of a brief prepared by a stateside public-relations firm that was only a few pages shorter than "Anthony Adverse." It showed that there wasn't a scintilla of evidence to prove that Colon's remains were anywhere else but in Santo Domingo. Although gambling is illegal in Spain, I suspect some Latin somewhere has been rolling the bones.

-HORACE SUTTON.

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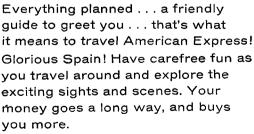
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## Literary Horizons

Continued from page 22

when he turned away from the slums. He did not indulge in nostalgia for the Middle Ages, but he realized how much of what he loved in Europe could be traced back to feudalism.

Yet his attitude towards American civilization at the turn of the century was anything but condescending. He was looking, he knew, at "a new and incalculable thing," and it commanded his respectful attention if not his unqualified admiration. If he could not foresee the extent to which developments in the United States would eventually change the face of Europe, he did recognize that there was an extraordinary force at work, and he used all the resources of his imagination to grapple with it.

The pertinence of many of James's observations to the present state of American life is evidence of the power of his mind. In the conditions of the new well-to-do class of 1904 he found foreshadowed many of the conditions of our era of prosperity. Consider this, written more than fifty years

The upper sort-in the scale of wealth, the only scale now-can to their hearts' content build their

own castles and move by their own motors; the lower sort, masters of gain in their degree, can profit, also to their hearts' content, by the enormous extension of those material facilities which may be gregariously enjoyed; they are able to rush about, as never under the sun before, in promiscuous packs and hustled herds, while to the act of so rushing about all felicity and prosperity appear for them to have been comfortably reduced.

For the more reflective sort of person, he obviously felt, we were building a poor sort of society, but most people didn't care. "To make so much money that you won't, that you don't 'mind,' don't mind anything-that is, absolutely, I think, the main American formula." It would be foolish to suppose that James said the last word on American civilization of 1904, but what he said is, in 1958, still worth thinking about.

Taking the book from start to finish, one sees the travel essays as an integral and important part of James's career. On every page you feel the mind that wrote the great novels. James, more fully than anyone else I can think of, was a writer in every waking moment, always making the most of whatever he experienced. To travel with him rewards the senses and stretches the mind.



## Criminal Record



NO BEAST SO FIERCE. By Charles Rushton. Roy. \$2.75. Insp. Cadman of Yard is called to Calcutta to break up murder-and-snatch mob (Americans included); chance for good local color missed, though many Indian words are lugged in: much bloodshed. Medium.

THE MAN IN GRAY. By Frances Crane. Random House. \$2.95. Jean and Pat Abbott, SF eye team, look into death of ancient citizen; April 15th figures heavily; viticulture is discussed and baby sitter engaged: two more deaths ensue. So-so.

CATCH AS CATCH CAN. By Frances and Richard Lockridge. Lippincott. \$2.95. Iowa gal seeking fortune in New York gets into deep trouble when roommate vanishes; lawyer in DA's office not too bright either; hide-and-seek, cat-andmouse job. Slightly overdone.

MATRIMONY MOST MURDEROUS. By Leslie Cargill. Roy. \$2.75. Edric Howarth (hates first name), ordered from London to Switzerland to cure nervous collapse, finds self saddled with de-

clared wife in Belgium; complications arise when hero sees his ideal in second gal; return to London sets off chain of sudden deaths. Opéra bouffe.

THE COLOR OF MURDER. By Julian Symons. Harper. \$2.95. London junior executive, coupled to unappealing wife, falls for comely librarian; murder puts him on spot; first half of yarn is defendant's psychiatric exam; second half, trial, verdict. Effective.

TIME OFF FOR DEATH. By George Braddon. Roy. \$2.75. Mike Gaunt, British agent (wonder-boy type), tangles with screwball pacifist who litters trail with dead; real ball-and-chain treatment fails to hold hero; Yard and other agencies tag along. Superman

MALICE IN WONDERLAND. By Rufus King. Crime Club. \$2.95. Eight short yarns, all laid in Florida, make up author's twenty-fifth book; Bill Duggan of sheriff's office featured, but other cops are active. Nice cluster of quickies. -SERGEANT CUFF.