

## A trip to the Ronda district.

The road to Ronda is winding through a varied landscape of mountains. At the beginning of olive trees and pines which then turns into a sterile landscape. We pass by Ronda running due west a few miles before we turn north onto a smaller road. The road hooks through the rolling countryside that has similarities to Tuscany. Wheat fields are superseded by fields of vegetables and olive groves. Along the way, all varieties blooming plants, it is enough to have under ones pillow the midsummer night. So here in June flaunts nature. We follow the sign Dona Felica Bodega onto a narrow dirt road. Right now they're plowing - not snow but likewise sand and gravel - and then vibrate the road. With little difficulty we manage our way through to work the machines. Then suddenly on the right side opens up a landscape of vineyards and the white house front, we read Chinchilla.



We have found the right place! We are received by the house's landlady, who guides us a walk around the vineyard, which was started in yaer 2000. Out among the vines are three employees and pinches off unwanted shoots. Yet it has not formed any grapes, but the flower clusters hanging there and show even than the good crop, although it has been dry this year. One plant produces a bottle of wine and they fill a hundred thousand bottles, representing fifteen percent of the

wine produced in Ronda DO. It is grown on five acres of grapes are Tempranillo, Syrah, Merlot and Sauvignon, with the first grape dominates. As in most bodegas, you can display large stainless steel tanks for wine-making and a modern production facility.

The wine cellar is below ground level and is pleasantly cool, something that not only visitors but also appreciate the wines. There are French oak barrels in which wine is stored. After three years, replacing drums when they wear out that particular flavor. The visit ends with tastings. This young Joven wine is good, but when a little more aged wine is poured into the glasses occurs sweet music. Six + Six is called wine, which is based on seventy percent Tempranillo and the rest Syrah. The test is raised further when the next wine comes in Chinchilla Doce. A lovely rich scent. A wine that fills the mouth. Made of Sauvignon and Merlot grapes and stored twelve months. A top wine for thirteen euros. For those who want to raise their bar a step further selects Chinchilla Con Arte stored fourteen months in oak barrels. The wine is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grapes. The label was designed by artist Jaime Rittwagen. The wine will cost seventeen euro. This year the bodega also produced a white wine - Cloe - in a limited edition of three hundred and fifty bottles





We drive on any mil north towards Setenil. The streets are very narrow and we are looking our way down through the village on steep serpenteringator. We park on the small square and continue on foot down to the river bed by this time of year is almost dry. The valley where the village is located is narrow and cramped. Hollowed out by water over thousands of years. The houses are common facades but many of them have been fully or partially excavated rooms in the soft sandstone. The rock and even stretches out over the houses, forming a roof. We turn south and take the direction of the village Algodonales. Now is the time to read the directions carefully and do not miss the small sign and the turn down to Casa Acequia where Lars and Karin carries a B & B business with four rooms. We drive through the gate into the trees and look us up on the gravel. To

the left is the charming white house and to the right a pool area with loungers. Great to quickly take a dip after a day out with over thirty degrees.

Here it is perfectly calm, even if the neighbor's donkey cry every now and then. The rooms are simple but with a high standard with en suite bathroom. There is a kitchen where we prepare our dinner. Out in the small courtyard outside the rooms we serve al fresco. Forward night under the full moon we retire and go to sleep comfortably. The breakfast the next morning taken on the terrace at Karin and Lars. Karin has made up a buffet breakfast.



We go to Zahara de la Sierra. This weekend is a bike race so we'll fight for space on the winding roads. The road runs along an elongated dammed lake. Wonderfully and beautiful.



The journey continues into the natural area of Grazalema and into the village of that name. The views are sweeping across the valleys and hills with olive trees and oaks. Goats and cows graze in the open meadows that break up the forest areas. It's a cute little village with many restaurants. To the west of the village, we are looking forward to a picnic area - Los Llanos del Campo - where we will walk.

There will be an easy hike with no excessive on an elevation of about seven hundred and fifty feet. The path leads straight up the mountain to a decayed farm. The trail

changes to be cobbled. Still not very comfortable going. The walk goes on through the sparse woods, across the highway and onto a dirt road. We pass through an animal enclosure where we are greeted by four fierce dogs. In some respect, we go past a bull below his cork oak and where he rests. The landscape opens up and we follow the edge of the forest around the mountain. After some hesitation about the routing, we will back on the right path and stops to eat your picnic.



The trail is not very well marked and for an hour, we went a bit without knowing exactly where we were. Although we had a simple map it is difficult to judge how far gone when you climb in the countryside. The finish was most beautiful when we walked down the mountain into a large meadow surrounded by goats, bulls and cows.

On the way home we drive across town Ubrique leather, a bit of a big city down the valley. If you are interested in buying leather products, it is certainly the right destination, otherwise you can skip this city. Better then to stay in Villaluenga on the road to Ronda, where they have both a cheese museum and cheese factory to shop in. The road goes through a dramatic landscape with high mountains and deep valleys back to Ronda. Scenic.

Here you can look for some more information: [www.casa-acequia.se](http://www.casa-acequia.se) and [www.chinchillawine.com](http://www.chinchillawine.com)

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