



In IBERIAN Lands

Clerecio's Tower is one of the crowns in the skyline of the "Golden City" of SALAMANCA.

The tower is part of Pontifical University, and integral to this lively world wide center of university education.

Sampling the culture of
PORTUGAL
and **SPAIN**
in their modern cities and
sometimes medieval countryside.

Plein air watercolor paintings by Michael Killelea © 2018

Killelea

Close to the harbor and offering commanding views over **Lisbon**, is the entrance to the walled Castelo Sao Jorge. In spite of a steep walk and narrow access lanes it's almost always crowded with visitors.

The magnificent 25 de Abril Bridge in **Lisbon** celebrates Portugal's independence and its emergence as a major international hub. The bridge soars over the Rio Tejo to newer areas on the opposite side, while passing over older sections still within the city.





Porto, Portugal's second city, sits at the mouth of the Douro River. Six bridges span the gorge from Porto to Gaia with its many port wine cellars. The river winds inland from the Atlantic among steep hills covered by vineyards, and olive groves.

On the coast between Lisbon and Porto lies the fishing village of **Nazaré**. Its northern shoulder is protected from Atlantic swells by steep & colorful granite cliffs.





For miles along the Douro River, hillsides are terraced with port wine vineyards like these in **Peso da Regua**.



Lamego has been a civic center in Portugal since pre-Roman times.

700 steps lead up to the ornate Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios. Modern day pilgrims may take a bus to the top and some choose to walk down.

But this baroque flavored town was also a stop on medieval pilgrimages including one of the routes to Spain's Santiago de Compostela.

Today, only 50 people live inside the walled village of **Castello d’Rodrigo**. But residents have managed to make a living on the almond orchards in the area and tours among the almost empty streets. It’s a fascinating look into a very long ago time.

Portugal’s famous **Mateus Wine Estate** hosts visitors to its manor house, stables and formal gardens. Leading to those gardens is an unusual tunnel of overhanging cedar trees which managed to shelter visitors on a very rainy day.





Madrid's parks & streets are crammed with people. The statue of Don Quixote & Sancho Panza on the Cervantes monument become props for visitors taking selfies.

Traffic on the Gran Via never seems to end under the eye of casual al-fresco diners.

Mike Killelea

recorded his visual impressions as he and his wife Kathy returned to parts of Portugal and Spain, enjoying the spring sunshine, scenery, tapas and wines.



His work can be seen online at: www.killeart.com or on the [Killeart](#) page on Facebook.