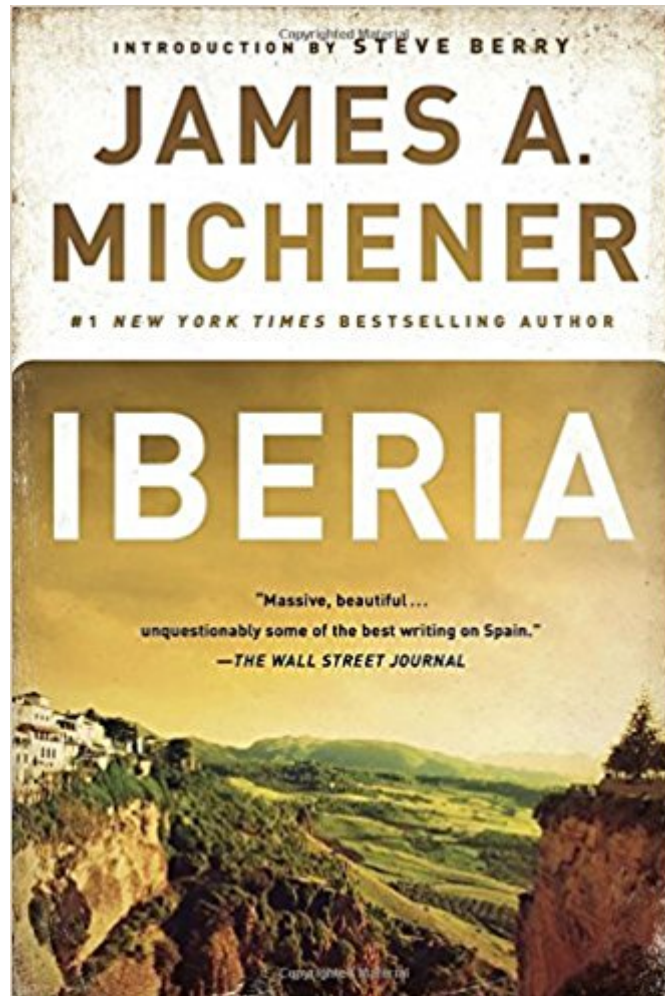




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# Iberia



## Synopsis

Spain is an immemorial land like no other, one that James A. Michener, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author and celebrated citizen of the world, came to love as his own. Iberia is Michener's enduring nonfiction tribute to his cherished second home. In the fresh and vivid prose that is his trademark, he not only reveals the celebrated history of bullfighters and warrior kings, painters and processions, cathedrals and olive orchards, he also shares the intimate, often hidden country he came to know, where the congeniality of living souls is thrust against the dark weight of history. Wild, contradictory, passionately beautiful, this is Spain as experienced by a master writer. **Praise for Iberia** **"From the glories of the Prado to the loneliest stone villages, here is Spain, castle of old dreams and new realities."** **The New York Times** **"Massive, beautiful . . . unquestionably some of the best writing on Spain [and] the best that Mr. Michener has ever done on any subject."** **The Wall Street Journal** **"A dazzling panorama . . . one of the richest and most satisfying books about Spain in living memory."** **Saturday Review** **"Kaleidoscopic . . . This book will make you fall in love with Spain."** **The Houston Post**

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## Customer Reviews

**"From the glories of the Prado to the loneliest stone villages, here is Spain, castle of old dreams and new realities."** **The New York Times** **"Massive, beautiful . . . unquestionably some of the best writing on Spain [and] the best that Mr. Michener has ever done on any subject."** **The Wall Street Journal** **"A dazzling panorama . . .**

one of the richest and most satisfying books about Spain in living memory. —*Saturday Review* —“Kaleidoscopic . . . This book will make you fall in love with Spain.” —*The Houston Post*

From the glories of the Prado to the danger and dazzle of the bullfights, master storyteller James A. Michener magnificently captures the stunning kaleidoscope that is Spain. Here is a rich and enduring tribute to a fascinating country, an immemorial place that has become Michener's second home. In the fresh and vivid prose that is his trademark, Michener not only reveals the celebrated Spain of warrior kings, painters and cathedrals, he also shares the intimate, often hidden Spain he has come to know: where the fishermen of the salted shores, the toiling peasants of the inland fields and the congeniality and passion of all of Spain's living souls conspire with the dark weight of history to create this mysterious, contradictory and wildly beautiful land. Look for other titles by James A. Michener available from Random House AudioBooks including *Alaska*, *Texas*, and *Caribbean*. Philip Bosco's extensive credits include appearances in the films *Trading Places*, *Three Men and a Baby*, *Suspect*, *Working Girl*, and *The Silence of the Lambs*. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Unlike his historical novels (Hawaii etc) that I read 40 or so years ago, I was thrilled that this was a memoir. I'm planning to visit Spain next year. Michener created a masterpiece by combining multiple trips into stories organized by area/region. The depth and breadth of his knowledge of history, art, literature, architecture etc is amazing. He hooked up with a photographer and the combination of narrative and pictures is outstanding.

This is not James Michener at his best. Iberia is not at all like *The Covenant* (South Africa) or *Alaska*. Iberia is more like a diary of a traveler in Spain several decades ago. A very slow read -- much of the text is of little interest for those who are interested in the history of Spain. I usually enjoy Michener's books because he typically weaves historical events into his novels. Not so with Iberia.

For some reason I was expecting a novel, and my first impression was negative. But I read it while in Spain for background historical information and it is rich in that, and of course well-written. I skipped long sections on things I wasn't interested in but very much enjoyed some of the historical sections. It does skip around in no logical way and its organization is rather perplexing (the order in which he traveled or got around to writing about things). I ended up reading 2/3 of it and enjoying it.

I recommend it -- just be prepared for its strange structure.

If you are traveling in Spain, this is a must read. James Michener wrote this about his travels over the years throughout Spain. He talks about the people, the history, the culture, the art, the architecture...everything you could want. This would be a good start for someone who wanted to see a different side of Spain, away from the typical tourist areas.

Now an old book but a grand introduction to the history of Spain with many insights into the Spanish personality. It is a bit fun to see the obvious enthusiasm that Michener has for bull fighting. of us would consider this outdated and not politically correct. I recommend the book highly.

Shoulda, woulda, coulda!!! Should have read this before we toured Spain. The author gives deep insights to many regions of Spain. Love the historical information and the anecdotes. The questions concerning Franco's successor are now answered so some of the thoughts and questions are dated. Also, 50 years have past. His personal journey is moving. The author describes bull fighting inside (bullfighters current and past, the press and the experts)and outside(the audience including himself) and the raising of bulls. Michener describes the power of Catholicism on the Spanish people and in reference to Rome.

I was disappointed. I have read other Michener books, but this one is a travel log of when he spent time in Spain several decades ago. I love his other books, as historical fiction, I learn about the area where I plan to visit.

Full of Mitchner's travels through Spain. Would have enjoyed seeing some of the items he discussed. If you are greatly involved in art, it surely is your treasure of information.

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