

# First Tucson Flamenco Festival

Written by Jackie Stahl

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This weekend will mark the start of what hopes to be a new and distinguished Tucsonan festival as Spanish dancers dressed in their authentic red ruffled dresses perform the passionate Andalusian dance known as flamenco.



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The show will take place at Tucson's Casa Vicente, a beloved family-owned Spanish restaurant that offers all things authentic and genuine to beautiful Spain with a side of lively performances and music.



On Sept. 18, 19 and 20, Casa Vicente will be filled with music and dance straight from Western Europe. Over these exciting three days, special guest artists, Fanny Ara, Gabriel Osuna, and Ricardo Anglada will offer flamenco workshops in dance, song, and guitar. In total Spanish-style, participants will be invited to taste delicious wines and kindly offered a glass of sweet sangria... Salut! The festival will also include outdoor mercado, cooking demos and tasty, yet traditional Spanish tapas!

Casa Vicente  
375 S. Stone Avenue, Tucson  
520.884.5253, [www.casaviciente.com](http://www.casaviciente.com)

Times:  
Friday and Saturday: 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
Sunday: 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Cost:  
\$20 Friday and Saturday, \$10 Sunday or purchase all three for \$40 (price includes wine tasting and a glass of sangria).

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Casa Vicente welcomes Tucsonans seeking a taste of Spain almost every day of the week. If you haven't tried Spanish paella, you must sample a pan at the Casa. This zesty rice dish comes in many different flavors, but mainly packed full of fresh seafood, vegetables, saffron and, of course, olive oil. Also on the menu are tapas (small Spanish dishes such as frittatas), entrees, sangria and fine wine.



As for performances, there's always something going on at Casa Vicente. Tuesday night is Bohemian night with "mini-machine" wine tasting, and Wednesday night is Tango night. On Thursdays, listen to Spanish guitarist, Ismael Barajas, whilst enjoying paella by the plate, and Fridays and Saturdays are always fun with live Flamenco performances.

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## History of the Flamenco

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Flamenco can be pinpointed as an Andalusian (Spanish region) musical and dance performance that is also characterized by the song and guitar. Originating in the 19th century, “flamenco is the music of the gypsies” and usually its connoisseurs don’t rely on special training. It is simply passed down from family members, friends and neighbors. Today, however, you may find special classes for those seeking to learn flamenco, according to Wikipedia.

As for a professional flamenco concert, a traditional singing performance has only a singer and one guitar, while a dance concert usually includes two or three guitars, one or more singers (singing in turns, as in traditional flamenco singers always sing solo), and one or more dancers, according to Wikipedia.