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NOTE TO THE READER

In the course of the book, we have preferred to use the original Spanish names for places and persons rather than the Anglicized forms. Thus "Felipe II" instead of "Philip II", "Calle de Velázquez" rather than "Velasquez Street" and so on, since it is easier to find points mentioned with the Spanish names. As for our choice in spelling and terminology, we have opted for American rather than British usage, other than in direct quotes of English authors. The metric system has been used throughout, though we have included the Anglo-American equivalents on most occasions.

As in any guide, changes do occur in the city, especially in one evolving as fast as Madrid, but the information presented was as accurate as possible at the time we researched the book and it went to press.

Although we have included a map for each area pinpointing most of the sights mentioned, occasionally the subject described may fall within another map in another area. These are so noted in the text. A few of the places mentioned, due to their distance from the center, are not included in the maps.

The book is primarily geared to those unfamiliar with the city, its culture and its history. We trust, however, that even those who already know Madrid will discover facets of it that had escaped their notice in the past.