

# WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THE FLAMENCO ARTS FESTIVAL

Below are just a few comments from sponsors and attendees from the U.S. and abroad.



## JAVIER RODRIGUEZ MAÑAS, CONSUL OF TOURISM, TOURISM OFFICE OF SPAIN IN LOS ANGELES

Flamenco has always been part of my life. Fortunately, my professional choice has allowed me to weave my passion for this unique Spanish cultural art form into my work, promoting Spain as a tourist destination. The Santa Barbara Flamenco Arts Festival has done a wonderful job at keeping it authentic, every year selecting elegant and genuine artists acclaimed in Spain's recognized flamenco circles. I am happy to support such a wonderful and enjoyable event to promote my country and the art of flamenco.

◆ This year I was privileged as a volunteer to get an up-close look at the many different components of the Flamenco Arts Festival. At every event I witnessed the joy that comes from music and dancing. Whether it was the spectators enjoying the flash mob, attendees at one of the 2 concerts, or the many dancers and musicians who participated in the classes, there were constant smiles and a clear appreciation for the art form of flamenco. In a time when there is so much talk of divisiveness it was wonderful to see people of all genders, ages and ethnicities join together in a cross-cultural event. It transcended beyond entertainment. It was especially gratifying to meet some of the many different people who traveled to Santa Barbara from other cities to be a part of the festival. They each took home with them special memories of their time spent here. Congratulations to the Flamenco Arts Festival for a great 2019 event.

◆ I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude to you for the hard work and dedication you have given to creating and keeping alive the Flamenco Arts Festival over the past few years. Santa Barbara is, indeed, the flamenco capitol of the United States because of your vision and dedication to the Festival this is something we should all be proud of!

◆ The Festival is highly regarded by Santa Barbarans and by the thousands of tourists who make it an annual destination. Students at Santa Barbara City College have attended the Festival each year and have gained a great deal from the celebrated Spanish and American artists who perform and teach during the exciting week of activities.

◆ What a wonderful show!!! Many congrats to you. The standing ovations were crazy!! I bet they felt loved by Santa Barbara.

◆ It was flamenco artistry to its highest caliber! Thank you so much to the sponsors and your organization for making shows like this accessible to folks in the area...Muchas gracias!

◆ It was an extraordinary show. Best next thing other than going to Sevilla.

◆ The show brought a great amount of happiness to the children of CALM.

◆ Your support makes the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara a better place for the children of our communities.

◆ ... I have the greatest admiration for those who dedicate their energy to producing flamenco performances both in Spain and abroad. Clearly the Festival has become a tradition, and this could not be so were it not for the determination of the Festival organizers...

◆ I came from Chicago and I participated in all four days of events. This is a wonderful event and I am so glad I attended.

◆ Thank you for organizing this festival. I have never been to Santa Barbara and it is beautiful. I will be back next year.