



contemporary Andalusian patio yards, on the other hand, is often covered with decorative pebbles, bricks or tiles and its columns are connected by arches.

You will often read – even in seemingly reputable publications like the *New York Times* – that Spanish patios are an accomplishment and legacy of Islamic rule in Spain, but those claims are hardly supported by historic fact. It is possible that the addition of arches can be attributed to Muslim architecture, and it is absolutely sure that the marvelous azulejo tiles of the Iberian peninsula (often found in patios) are a lasting reminder of the Islamic era, but the general concept of a penstyle–patio is much older.

And so is its motivation and everyday use. A courtyard in Roman days often contained plants, water features like fountains and ponds as well as benches and sculptures turning it not only into the showpiece of a well-appointed Roman villa, but also providing a cool and protected hideaway in scorching Mediterranean summer heat.

By another theory, Andalusian patios experienced peak popularity during the industrial revolution of the 19th and 20th centuries when country folk flooded into the cities and tried to recreate a small piece of open country lifestyle in their patios. While this seems a bit far-fetched and in any way too recent, it would explain the Andalusian infatuation with patios and the fervor to create the most cozy and pretty patios and even to compete with others for the price of most spectacular one.



Festival de las Patios Córdoba

Andalusian Patios

Spain

Andalusian patios are traditional Spanish courtyards that are designed to provide shade and Natural Cooling System.

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