

gràcia

LIFE/ MATT/ KIM/ BARCELONA/ SPAIN/ 2014

winter

bcn

~ free ~

issue 1

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kim-vu



placa vila de gracia
illustration: Sigfrid Romañach



1. First muffin (magdalena), Urban Picnic (calle Asturias gracia)
2. Kids (Nens) Campers, Roca Village Campers Outlet
3. Cortado
4. Macca's ladies loos
5. roller door
6. Lola, the butcher, mercado gracia
7. Fish of the day, El Glop Taverna, gracia.

HAPPY 2014 ~ FELIZ AÑO 2014~ BON NADAL

Just before midnight everybody turns on their televisions. Every channel broadcasts an image of the big clock in the main square in Madrid. As the clock chimes twelve times before midnight a grape is eaten with each chime. We found this tradition really difficult to do - cramming 12 grapes into our gobbs! It is said that if you succeed in eating all twelve grapes you will have good luck for the coming year. Thank you Toni and Cris for the lovely food and endless Cava.



1.First course - soup 2.Toni and
Cris's family and friends 3.Second
course - caramalised onion and beef
4.12 grapes for nye countdown







CELEBRATING THE 3 KINGS

The 3 Kings Parade or "Cabalgata de los Reyes Magos" in Spanish and "Cavalcada del Reis Mags" in Catalan, is held in the evening of the 5th of January every year. These locals were singing christmas carols on Calle Verdi to celebrate the 3 Kings. The tradition also involves giving gifts to the little ones on this day.

JORGE

The biggest purchase of our week was 'Jorge' (pronounced 'Hor-heh'), the nespresso machine from El Cortes Ingles (Spanish version of Myer). €99 with 100 pods "free".



FIRA DEIS ARTESANS 4-5 JANUARY 2014

Placa de la revolucio and Placa de la Virreina hold an artesan market the first weekend of every month. The market is tiny with only 8-10 artists with stalls. Both placas are only 100m from our apartment. Totes Awes.



TOMATOE SOUP FETTUCCINI

First home cooked meal. What looked like a jar of tomato pasada was actually tomato soup - so fettuccine tomato soup. Absolutely hids. 1st dud move.





RECYCLING

Barcelona's Environmental Department have produced new waste recycling containers which are designed for easy use by the city's whole population. Each waste category is associated with a colour: organic - brown, general waste - grey, cardboard and paper - blue, plastic packaging - yellow and glass - green. Containers are lined up in the same order everywhere to make it easy for the blind or visually-impaired to identify them. - even for Matt ...



bicicletas segunda mano

WE WERE WARNED...

Barcelona's new transport system is called Bicing. It is a huge investment; in only its two first years of operation more than 400 bike stations have been placed around the city. The stations are strategically located near bus stops and metro stations.

As we have not finalised our residency permits, and presently Bicing is only available for catalonian residents, we decided to buy second hand foldable bikes (palegable segunda mano bicis €50-80 EUR). We also bought new bike locks and got our tyres pumped up at the local bike shop.

We were both able to enjoy the neighbourhood together on the weekends. Lasted almost a full week till both bikes were stolen.
2nd dud move.



WALLS

Welcome to calle Asturias, Gracia: chock-full of boho shops, trendy cafes, few tourists and lots of colorful walls.



PAN PAN BREAD!

Bread in Spain is like rice in Asia - it should be eaten with every meal. There are 3 separate bakeries within 100m of our place.



NEMESIO (EL PERRO)

The catalans love love their dogs (los perros). Whilst sitting in the plaza one night after dinner we got to meet a local retiree called Ernest and his dog Nemesio, a 3 month old Teckel (wire-haired dachshund). What a nice way to be welcomed into the neighbourhood.



LAUNDRY

Pegging our laundry like the locals ...

