

BILBAO – AN INTERNATIONAL REFERENCE

Year after year, Port and City are becoming a gateway for culture, gastronomy and worldwide acknowledged events

Port of Bilbao to Miami again

One year more, the Port of Bilbao will be present with its own stand at the Seatrade Cruise fairs, both at the Global, to be held in Miami from Monday 8 to Thursday 11 April (Stand 811), and at the European, scheduled for Wednesday 11 to Friday 13 September.

Basque society among the most developed

The Basque Country is among the most developed societies and stands at the same level as the United Kingdom or the United States with regard to the quality

of living standards enjoyed by its citizens, according to the latest Human Development Index of the United Nations Development Programme.

Miami and the Basque Country working for an air link

In January, a delegation from the State of Florida (USA) – headed by the Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Carlos A. Giménez, and accompanied by several representatives of the Port and Airport of Miami – visited the Mayor of Bilbao, Juan Mari Aburto, who in turn was accompanied by Ricardo Barkala, Chairman of the Port Authority of

Bilbao, and Luis Gabiola, its Operational, Commercial and Logistics Director. Among other matters they dealt with “the possibility of exploring new communication channels in different fields of interest for both parties”, and a new connection by air was one of them.

Bilbao Best European City 2018

Bilbao has been named European City of the Year at the 2018 Academy of Urbanism Awards. This prize judges cities for both their urban as well as for their environmental, social and innovative factors.



Basque cuisine at the World's 50 Best Restaurants

On 19th June, the annual awards ceremony for "The World's 50 Best Restaurants" was held at the Euskalduna Conference Centre, where the top fifty world temples of haute cuisine were designated. Four Basque restaurants were among the award winners: Mugaritz and Etxebarri, ranked 9 and 10 on the list, Arzak was 31 and Azurmendi 43. Over 800 chefs, reporters, critics and communicators gathered in Bilbao, with the resulting economic impact on the city.

More Michelin Stars for basque restaurants

Basque cuisine is up among the world's elite and thus it is acknowledged year after year in the Michelin Guide starred restaurants. This year 2019 there are 23 restaurants with Michelin stars: four with three (Arzak, Aquelarre, Martín Berasategui and Azurmendi), one with two (Mugaritz) and eighteen with one.



Nerua Guggenheim Bilbao
 José Luis López de Zubiria

La Vuelta – Round-Spain Cycling Championship

The Spanish cycle-racing championship –la Vuelta– returned once again to Bilbao, but this time starting one of his stages at our city.

The legendary Belgian ex-cyclist Eddy Merckx believes that Bilbao deserves to host a stage of the Tour de France among other reasons for the "great fondness" for cycling that exists in the Basque Country and that "I would be glad to come to Bilbao to a stage of the Tour"

The institutions of Bilbao and Bizkaia have maintained several contacts with the organization of the Tour de France so that the city can welcome the arrival of a stage of the French round in the near future.



Passenger terminal

Bizkaia International Music Experience, International Gathering of Music Industry

The BIME Festival will be held as every year at the Bilbao Exhibition Centre (BEC), this edition will be celebrated during the oct 30th and nov 2nd of 2019.

This festival is divided into two sections: PRO the greatest international event dedicated to music sector professionals, new technologies, videogames and marketing; while the LIVE festival it's the largest covered music festival in Spain with eminent national and international bands as headliners.

Bilbao BBK Live

In July 2019, during days 11, 12 and 13 people from all around the world will be gathered at the XIII annual Bilbao BBK Live music festival, which has been held on the Bilbao Kobetas mountain since 2006, and is catalogued as one of the most important in Spain.

The attendance it is usually around 150,000 each year, thanks to the shows of bands like Guns N' Roses, Markus Schulz, Iron Maiden, Red Hot Chily Peppers, Metallica, Incubus, The Police, R.E.M., Lenny Kravitz, Radiohead, Coldplay, Rammstein, Slayer, Pearl Jam...

European Rugby Finals

In May, Bilbao was the stage for the European Rugby Champions Cup and the European Rugby Challenge Cup, the most important rugby competitions on the continent.

Red Bull Cliff Diving Competition

For the third time, in June, Bilbao hosted the most extreme divers' event - Red Bull Cliff Diving. The stage was La Salve Bridge, with the Guggenheim Museum providing the background for the dives, carried out from a height of 27 metres.

It is planned that the 2019 edition will be held in September.



Bilbao is flooded with music with the MTV awards

In November, Bilbao became for the 1st time Europe's music capital, when it hosted the MTV EMAs. This is a worldwide event that was held in the Basque city for the first time, transforming it into the music epicentre for several days. As happened in previous editions, held for 24 years, being: London, Rotterdam and Milan the predecessor venues.

The founder of MTV, John Lack, in an interview before the awards said: "Bilbao has great appeal: in a few weeks it will host the MTV

Awards because it has managed to shine with its own appeal. It has beautiful buildings with the signature of Frank Gehry and Calatrava but also has its own language and an intense industrial history".

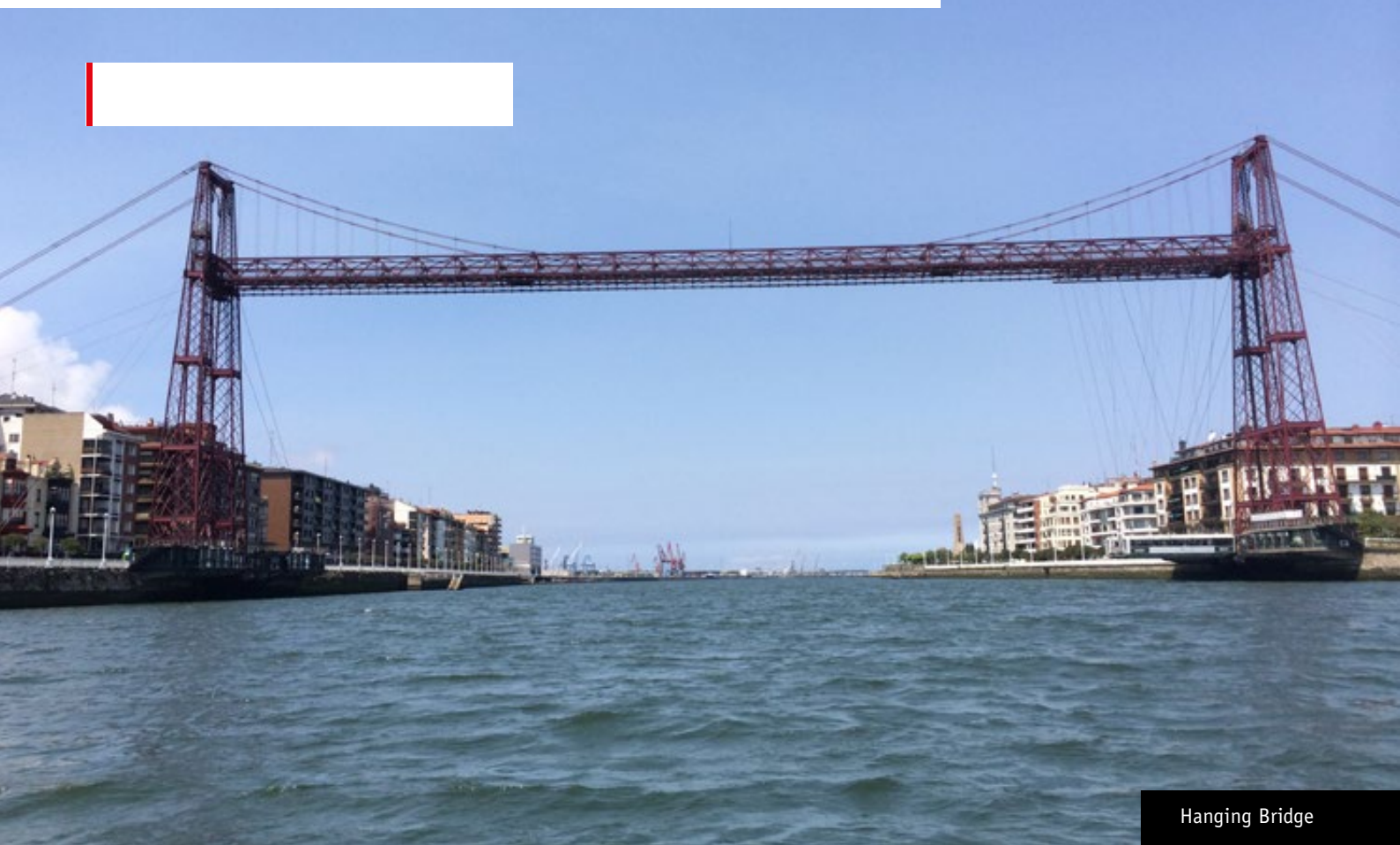
125 Anniversary of "Hanging Bridge"

In 2018, Biscay Bridge celebrated its 125 anniversary, with its surroundings hosting cultural, sporting and festive activities throughout this year.

The Bridge, inaugurated in 1893 and built by Alberto de Palacio and Elissague, disciple of Eiffel, was the first bridge of its kind built in

the world and is currently considered the longest serving ferry bridge in the world, in addition, the 13th of July 2006 was declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco.

The bridge ferry makes trips 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Using the bridge, saves a road trip of almost 20 km, so it is a widely used transport to connect Getxo with Portugalete. In addition there are also touristic guided tours, with the possibility of crossing it by a pedestrian footbridge located on the top of the bridge.



Hanging Bridge

Dragonstone is in the Basque Country

Since the new season of Game of Thrones commenced on 17 July this year, eyes have been fixed on one of the new scenarios of the series: Dragonstone, an impressive islet with 241 steps that has been chosen as the ancient home of the Targaryen, and which is actually found

in the San Juan de Gaztelugatxe's shrine in Bermeo (Biscay). This place which can be visited throughout the year has attracted the curiosity of the thousands of followers of the HBO series for the stunning beauty of its surroundings and they have added to the local tradition of ringing the bell of the chapel

three times and then, ask for a wish. The name of this medieval-style shrine in Basque means "castle made of rock" and it is precisely the special effects of the series that have turned it into a palace of stone to give life to one of the most important plots of the season.



San Juan de Gaztelugatxe