

# Spain

## El Escorial

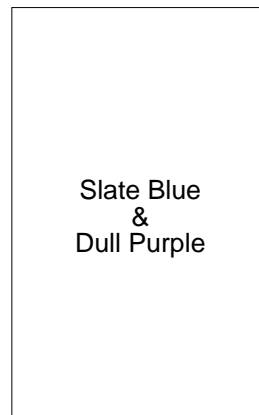
El Escorial is located about 25 miles northwest of Madrid. Among its other attractions to tourists is a fine collection of art. There are paintings by El Greco, Titian, Velasques and Tintoretto, among others. The overall size of the entire complex can be better understood if some of its statistics are mentioned. There are, for instance, 15 cloisters and over 80 staircases.

Curiously, the royal palace which Phillip had built for his own use is quite small. This was in all probability due to his strong religious feelings. The windows of his personal room in the palace provide a direct view of the altar of the main church. Shown below are views of a patio and the main altar of the church.



80c

1022



6P

1026

There is a belief that during the battle of Saint Quentin, Spanish forces destroyed a small structure - a hermitage - devoted to St. Lawrence. The King, hearing of this, dedicated the new monastery of El Escorial to Lawrence in thanks for the Spanish victory.

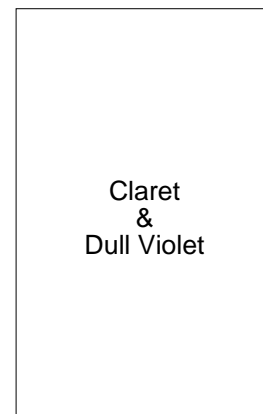
The mausoleum has been the burial place for most of the Spanish Kings in the last 500 years. Interred there are King Phillip II, his father, Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire [also known as Charles I of Spain], Phillip III, Phillip IV, Charles II, Louis I, Charles III, Charles IV, Ferdinand VII, Isabel II, Alfonso XII and Alfonso XIII.

The stamps below picture the Garden of the Monks and one of the many staircases.



1p

1023



2.50p

1024