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# Sir Laurence Olivier In Spain: The Shooting Of "Richard III" And Other Visits

## SIR LAURENCE OLIVIER IN SPAIN



THE SHOOTING OF  
"RICHARD III" AND OTHER VISITS

MARGARIDA  
ARAYA



## **Synopsis**

"Sir Laurence Olivier in Spain" details why the British actor and director Laurence Olivier (1907-1989) chose 'those stunted Spanish trees and the silver grass' in the Madrid environs to shoot part of his film "Richard III" in 1954. Despite its secrecy, and thanks to certain sources such as Olivier's personal diaries, some secrets about the shooting are revealed. Several interviews given by Olivier and his then-wife, the actress Vivien Leigh, to the Spanish press in 1954 and during his later visit in 1957, provide additional details.

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## **Customer Reviews**

Margarida Araya's concise little book, reads like an investigative journal on Laurence Olivier's visits to Spain, primarily the ones he did for location shooting for Richard III in 1954. We know that Olivier considered directing a motion picture, the nearest an artist could get to being a creator, so this little gem provides good insight into the hard work, commitment and passion he had for his craft. It also explains why Spain was picked for the location shooting and via the many interviews the Oliviers did whilst on their various trips over the years, a somewhat detached observation into their individual personalities and complex relationship. (that of Olivier and his second wife Vivien Leigh). Personally there is only one thing I am disappointed with and that is the book was not available to me when I

did my Spain trip in 2011. Being rather obsessive about places in relation to Vivien Leigh, it appears that I had driven past many sites without realising their significance and also missed little towns that must've been special to them. This can only mean one thing and that is I will have to do another trip in the future with the book as my travel guide and that is certainly not a bad thing. Thank you Margarida!

I bought the Spanish edition of this book when it was first published, more than one year ago. Since then, I had been waiting for the English version to come out, so as to be able to recommend it to some friends who cannot speak Spanish. Of course, this is so because I think this is a great book, so I've decided to write a review here, which is a translation of that I wrote on .es for the Spanish edition. What I first thought on reading information about the book before purchasing it was, 'Is it really possible to write one hundred pages about the relationship between Sir Laurence Olivier and Spain?'. You often find monographs with little relevant information and lots of waffle and repetition... So I didn't quite know what to expect when I bought this book. But I was in for a pleasant surprise. It IS possible to write one hundred pages with high-quality information about such a specific subject! The text is packed with data, and it is well written (unfortunately this, which shouldn't even be mentioned, is often the exception). Besides, this book contains many beautiful photographs ('s 'Look Inside!' feature has allowed me to see that the English book has got more pics than the Spanish one). In short, I think this is an essential book for every fan of Sir Laurence Olivier, or of Vivien Leigh, and also for everyone who's interested in films shot in Spain or classical cinema.

Love this book and the discovery of all the places where Olivier enjoyed Spain and, specially, the locations he used for his movies. Glad to know thanks to the author that Spain helped Olivier to improve his personal life as well as his work as a movie director. I guess this book has not been an easy work to do as most of his visits were very private, specially in a time where paparazzis didn't work the way they do today. That is why, as there are not many pictures of Olivier in Spain, the ones that appear in this book are so thrilling

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