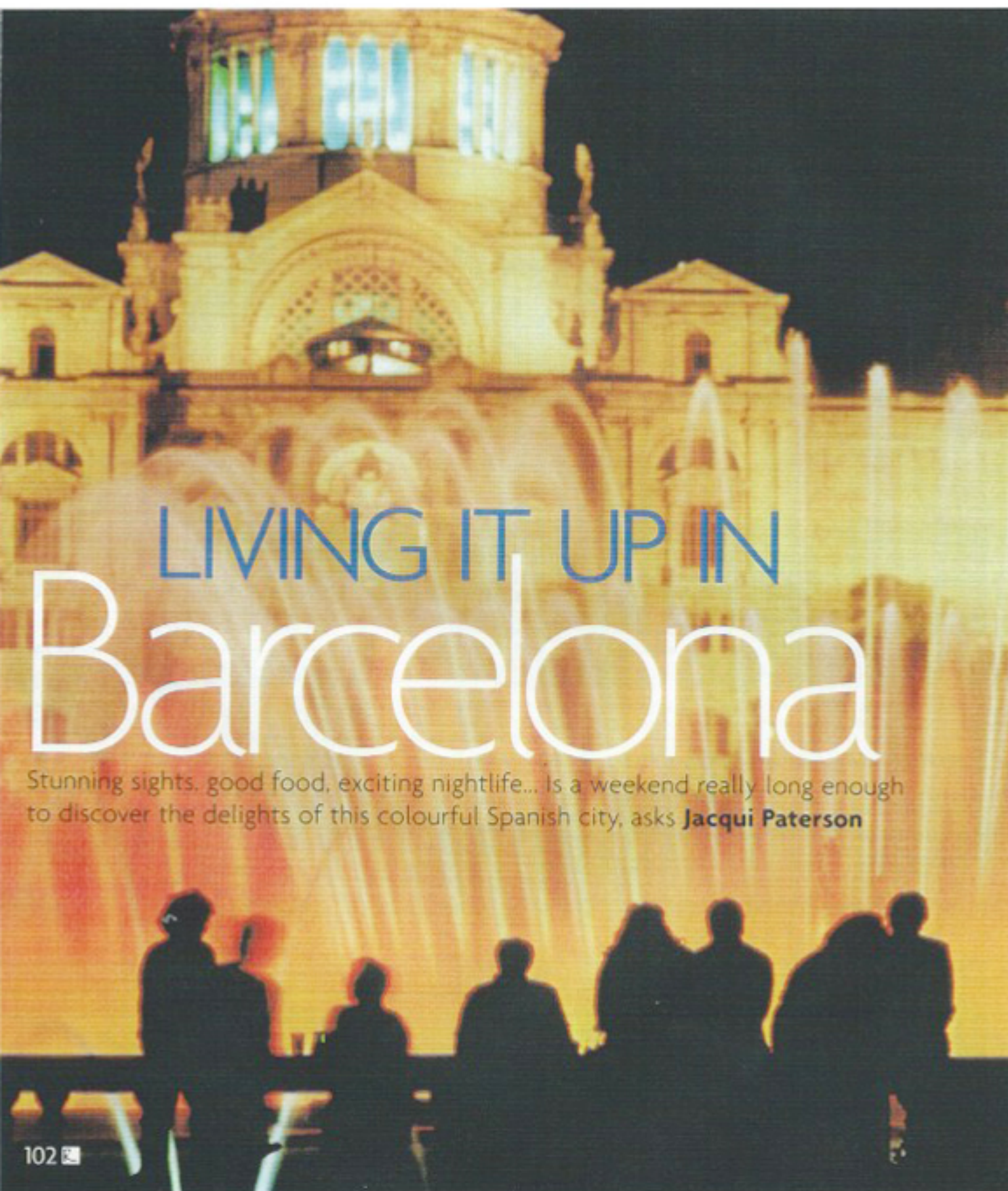




LIVING IT UP IN Barcelona

Stunning sights, good food, exciting nightlife... Is a weekend really long enough to discover the delights of this colourful Spanish city, asks **Jacqui Paterson**

5 Sample fantastic seafood at the waterfront restaurants 6 Explore La Bouqueria, the vast fruit and veg market 7 La Rambla is where colourful street performers practise their art 8 Port Olímpic, where things really hot up at night 9 Sagrada Família towers majestically above the city



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FIVE FABULOUS THINGS TO DO

- 1 Take in the Picasso Museum, or make the most of Barcelona's rich cultural heritage and visit any of the 52 other museums in and around the city.
- 2 Spend an afternoon cruising the Med on one of the pleasure boats that depart regularly from the waterfront.
- 3 Enjoy a gondola (cable car) ride from the harbour to Montjuïc Castle. Once there, you can explore the castle and enjoy the panoramic views from Montjuïc

mountain. A return ticket is around £2.50.

- 4 See traditional flamenco at Tablao de Carmen restaurant, El Poble Espanyol (00 34 933 256 895). Around £35 per person for dinner and the show (closed Mondays).

5 Even if you're not keen on football, it's worth catching a game at the impressive Camp Nou stadium. Buy your tickets from the stadium office two or three days in advance, or on line at www.fcbarcelonaonline.com. Avoid touts unless you want to pay grossly inflated prices.



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WHERE TO EAT

LUXURY Ca l'Isidre, 12 Les Flors (00 34 934 411 139/www.isidre.mhp.es/calisdre.htm) has been run by the Gironès family for over 25 years and counts King Juan Carlos as one of its regular diners. Ingredients for the seasonal Catalan dishes are bought at the nearby La Bouqueria market. Booking is essential. A three-course meal costs around £30.

MID-RANGE Set Portes, 11 Passeig Isabe (00 34 933 193 033/www.setportes.com) is housed in a building which appeared in the first photograph ever taken in Spain back in 1840 and has been declared a national monument. Try the legendary paella or the zarzuela (fish stew). A three-course meal costs around £15.

BUDGET La Fonda, 10 Carrer Escudellers (00 34 933 017 515). This lively but affordable eatery offers good Catalan food such as butifarra sausage with haricot beans and the national dessert crema Catalana. Booking is advised. A three-course meal costs around £10.

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