

Buenos Aires: The Biography of a City

By James Gardner

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Buenos Aires, Argentina, recognized for its European-style architecture and lively theater scene, is a truly special place. The second-largest city in South America, it has been the home of such renowned cultural and historical figures as Jorge Luis Borges and Astor Piazzola, Che Guevara and Eva Peron. Like every truly great city, New York, London and Prague; Buenos Aires is its own universe, with its own center of gravity, its own scents and flavors, its own architectural signature-in short, its own way of being. From San Telmo's oak-paneled restaurants and brightly tiled apothecaries from 1900, and the phantasmagoric Beaux Arts palaces along Avenida Alvear and Plaza San Martin, to the parks of Palermo and the bustling bars and cafes along Corrientes and LaValle, Buenos Aires is steeped in exotic culture and history.

In *Buenos Aires,* Art and culture critic James Gardner offers a colorful biography of the "Paris of the South," from its origins and time as a colonial city, through its Golden age, the rise of Peron, and the Falklands War, to the present day. With entertaining asides about art, architecture, literature, food and dance, as well as local customs and colorful personalities, this is a rich and unique historical narrative of Buenos Aires.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Excellent....a treasure for those who have visited the city or plan to soon." ?The New Criterion

"You come away from *Buenos Aires* with a strong desire to visit Buenos Aires?or if you already have, to return and see all the things that escaped your notice." ?*The Weekly Standard*

"Gardner has written a love story for the second largest city in South America, and his account should be required reading for city planners, architecture students, or those who are interested in how a city goes from humble beginnings to the “Paris of the South” ?*Library Journal*

“A genial historical tour conducted by an affectionate docent with a keen eye and an admiring though sometimes-admonitory message.” ?*Kirkus Reviews*

About the Author
JAMES GARDNER is an American art and culture critic based in NYC and Buenos Aires. His writings have appeared in *The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The New Republic* and *The British Spectator*. He was the art critic at the *New York Post* and wrote architecture criticism for the *New York Observer*, before serving as the architecture critic at the now defunct *New York Sun*. He now writes for *The Real Deal Magazine*, the *Weekly Standard*, and *Antiques.*

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