



A JACKIE SPECIAL ON DAVID IN EUROPE: PART FIVE

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



HAVING spent one evening watching Flamenco dancing in a Spanish night club, David decided he'd like to spend his second evening in Madrid trying out the local food and wine.

So off we all went to one of the city's oldest restaurants called Casa Botin. When you enter, you pass by part of the kitchens and then go down to a basement reached by a twisting wooden stairway, where you have to bend almost double so you don't bump your head!

We'd taken a long table on the middle floor at one end of the room so that David would have his back to the rest of the diners, and therefore would not run the risk of being spotted. One of his security men sat beside him just in case. In fact he wasn't needed because we soon found out the Spanish are very well-mannered and wouldn't think of invading anyone's privacy while they were eating.

The menus were all written in Spanish of course, but the restaurant owner kept a supply of English translations ready because most of the waiters couldn't speak English.

David said that his favourite dish was clams and that was what he started with, while most of the rest of us chose prawns.

Next David decided to have the delicacy of the restaurant which was very special pork. The way they cook it, it's extremely tender and melts in your mouth; the crackling around it isn't hard like it usually is at home, it just melts in your mouth. Delicious! All this was washed down by what David told me was his favourite wine, which is Sangria. This has a base of red wine and is served in big jugs and with lots of fruit and ice cubes in it. It's very refreshing and not too strong.

"I remember in the early days when I used to sit around with my manager Ruth Aarons," David told me. "It would be four years ago. And she would say 'We should do this' and I'd say, 'I just don't want to do it'. Then she'd pour me a glass of Sangria and halfway through the second glass I'd look up and say 'Do you know? You're right!'"

During the meal David kept us continually entertained with funny stories about his life and asked us if we knew this and that programme from American television. Everyone including David was very relaxed and in a mood to enjoy themselves. At one point David laughed so much at something I said, that tears rolled down his face!

David talked about the Flamenco



dancing he'd seen the previous night.

"I was boogieing around the stage last night a bit, wasn't I? I'd never seen Flamenco dancing before so I really got into it.

"Once when we were on the road with the band we all thought we'd make an album called 'Boogieing Back To Buffalo' because we'd been boogieing around the clubs there.

"But you know I'm feeling more and more like James Bond every day on the run. I hardly know which country I'm in, although with the dancing you could hardly mistake Spain, I suppose.

"Do you know, the first time I went to Britain I had no idea that anyone knew who I was. I had no idea at all. I turned up at the airport and suddenly there were all these girls! I'd never imagined anyone would know anything about me or have a clue who I was. You never know before you go into a country what will happen.

"But it's kind of nice to have somewhere like Spain where I can really relax before going into Britain and doing all those concerts. If you live 6,000 miles away like I do you've no idea what is going on in other countries.

"The Spanish seem to be getting quite keen on my music now, or at least that's what they said at the TV station, and appearing on that TV show will help. Then again although there haven't been any crowds, there have been lots of photographers and those photographs will be appearing somewhere and then more people will know me, that's the way it works. But sometimes, I admit, it's nice not to be known too well."

In Spain David's TV series 'The Partridge Family' is seen on television but it's called Mama And Her Incredible Children. David found it particularly funny that one of the dishes on the menu in the restaurant was... 'Partridge'!

Then talk turned to his present tour. He'd gone away to Northern Italy to get himself really fit for it before returning to his home in Los Angeles to rehearse with his band. Yet still he felt now, "I was prepared for it in some ways but in others I wasn't. I mean I really worked hard. I prepared for a month, I went away, I rehearsed. But I vary every night, some nights I'm good, some nights I'm not.

"But it's all the other things you don't take into consideration. Like, I had no idea this tour was going to be so heavy. Last night I came home and thought, 'What am I doing in Spain? I can't even say Good Morning in their language!'

"You see last night this photographer tried to jump in my car as I was leaving the discotheque and he hit me, he actually hit me in the face! I didn't really realise until the door had shut and we were driving away. Then suddenly I felt my face to see if my nose wasn't broken or anything!

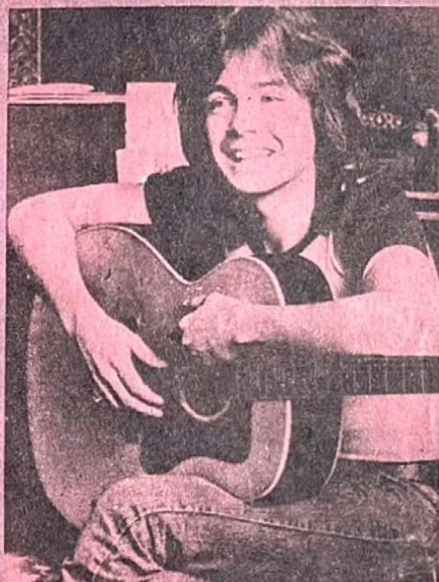
"I can't understand it, because usually I co-operate as much as I can. I think I've been good to the photographers. It's just that when they've had time to take their pictures I like them to leave me alone like anyone else.

"And so after an experience like that you ask yourself, is it all worth it? I mean it's quite upsetting. Fortunately those things don't happen that often.

"The last night before the tour in the States I had dinner with John and Yoko Lennon. We had a toast and John said, 'Here's to your tour, and here's to me never touring again.'

"In the States I only go out at weekends. I've done a couple of other tours over there lasting two weeks at a time, but this is a totally different experience—I can't get to everyone and I find there aren't enough hours. I find there isn't the time in which I can relax and then I begin to think: why rock 'n' roll for a living?

"That was the beauty of getting away into the mountains near here this morning, just to relax. I'd really like to be able to get away into the mountains much



more. You're on your own—it's a great feeling.

"It really builds you up as well and that's good because I have to be fit when I'm touring. If I wasn't in really good condition my act might be affected and I don't think that's fair, do you?

"I feel I owe it to my fans to do my best for them."

Next Week: the flight to Luxembourg.

