

What do I need?

Plain terracotta plant pot
(any size)

Acrylic paints

Paint brushes

Clear varnish
(optional)

Potting compost

Flowering plant
(your choice)

Watering can



Flowers for Fiesta de los Patios

What do I do?

Look at page 2 to learn about the Spanish festival called *Fiesta de los Patios* or the 'Courtyard Festival.'

Use your paints to decorate your plant pot however you like, using bright colours to make it really colourful. You can paint it in block colours or a pattern, such as a symmetrical design!

Leave the paint to dry for a few hours, then paint over it with a layer of clear varnish to protect it from rain and dirt. Set aside for a few hours until fully dry.

Now it's time to get planting!

Add some potting compost to your plant pot until it is about two-thirds full. Make a hole in the middle large enough for the root ball of your chosen plant.

Remove your plant from its original pot by squeezing at the sides until it comes loose and slides out easily, then place the root ball into the hole. Top up the compost around the root ball so that the roots are nicely covered and the plant feels stable.

Give the plant a good drink of water and display it out in your garden or on a windowsill indoors.

Why not decorate and plant a few more pots for a really eye-catching Fiesta display?



Fiesta de los Patios

The gardening festival *Fiesta de los Patios* takes place every year in May in the town of Córdoba in southern Spain. The first Fiesta took place in 1918 when the town decided to hold a competition for the prettiest patio.

The development of patio gardens dates back to the Roman occupation of Córdoba in BC 206 when people built open-aired atriums enclosed by four stone walls for protection from the strong sunlight and harsh heat of the Mediterranean climate.

Over the years, the patios began to be decorated with plants, flowers and fountains so that people could sit and enjoy some coolness away from the heat of the burning sun. The design of the patio gardens was refined under the influence of the Moors in AD 711, giving them the Islamic style seen today.

Today, many houses and businesses open up their patios to visitors so they can see the colourful displays and enjoy the cool, relaxed atmosphere. The most widely grown plant in the patios are geraniums (*Pelargonium* species). These and other plants are planted in beautifully decorated plant pots and positioned around the patios, often covering the walls and staircases. The owners of the patios are often on hand to talk to visitors about their designs.

