

## Document Citation

Title	<b>L'auberge espagnole</b>
Author(s)	
Source	<i>San Francisco International Film Festival</i>
Date	2003 Apr 17
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	49
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	Klapisch, Cédric (1961), Neuilly-sur-Seine, France
Film Subjects	L'auberge espagnole, Klapisch, Cédric, 2002



## L'auberge espagnole

*The Spanish Apartment*

France/Spain 2002, 115 min.

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In French, Spanish and English with English subtitles

**DIR** Cédric Klapisch **PROD** Bruno Levy **SCR** Cédric Klapisch **CAM** Dominique Colin

**ED** Francine Sandberg **CAST** Romain Duris, Cécile DeFrance, Judith Godrèche, Audrey Tautou

The director of *When the Cat's Away* teams with the star of *Amelie* in this sparkling culture clash love crash, set in an apartment building for international exchange students in Barcelona. The French economics student Xavier dodges both the smothering tendrils of French bureaucracy and the possessive clutches of his girlfriend Martine (Audrey Tautou, provocatively reversing her sweet-natured *Amelie* performance) to grab a spot in a Spanish-language exchange program. Mouthing love-is-eternal promises to Martine, he soon finds himself in a Barcelona seemingly populated entirely by foreigners, each as obnoxious, noisy, drunk and very, very single as the next. Dodging an affably irritating Brit one moment and taking advice from his Belgian lesbian housemate the next, Xavier finds his priorities—economics degree, Martine's love—dissipating by the day, and new ones—a writing career, a beautiful married French woman—taking their place. Moving back to France, he must decide where his heart resides, and how to express its changes. Writer/director Klapisch does for Barcelona what his *When the Cat's Away* did for Paris, turning the city into a charming wonderland of eternal sun and momentary love, just the right place for those looking for a change, and for anyone seeking a joyous, romantic film with the heart of a Parisian, and the heat of the Mediterranean.

Cédric Klapisch (b. Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, 1961) Selected Filmography: *Maybe* (1999), *When the Cat's Away* (1995), *Lumière and Company* (1995), *Good Old Daze* (1994), *Little Nothings* (1992)

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