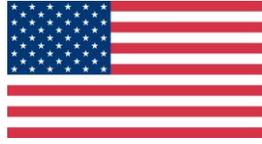


# PRESS RELEASE



UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN MADRID

## U.S. Independence Day Celebration Showcases the Ties between Madrid and New York

On June 27, 2015, the U.S. Embassy in Madrid celebrated America's Independence Day at the Conde Duque Cultural Center in downtown Madrid in an event that showcased the strong trade, investment, and tourism relationship between the United States and Spain.

Conde Duque was selected as the location for the second year in a row in order to highlight Madrid as a premier capital of culture and world class destination. This year's event also featured New York City, which shares strong business, cultural, and tourism ties with Madrid. The Big Apple, represented visually with a large-scale reproduction of the iconic New York City skyline, was celebrated through music, and a menu showcasing the city's multicultural cuisine, including: falafel, fajitas, "cubano" sandwiches, cheesecake, and of course, hamburgers and hotdogs. New York's promotional entity NYC & Co. presented guests with information about all the city has to offer. Further underscoring the close ties between the United States and Spain, many of the companies that so generously sponsored the celebration have operations in both countries.

Guests enjoyed a Broadway-themed musical revue produced by the renowned Harvey Weinstein and featuring premiere theatrical talent, including Norm Lewis [www.normlewis.com](http://www.normlewis.com) – the first African American actor to star in the iconic opera "Phantom of the Opera," Tony Award-winning singer and actress Laura Benanti [www.laurabenanti.com](http://www.laurabenanti.com), and Jared Grimes [www.jaredmgrimes.com](http://www.jaredmgrimes.com), a singer, dancer, and actor who has performed in some of America's top productions. These talented performers dazzled the audience with a selection of America's beloved musical classics, and in a surprise addition, the cast from the Madrid production of the Lion King joined the revue, performing "Can You Feel the Love Tonight." Late in the evening, guests enjoyed the sounds of one of New York's hottest DJs, Les Carbonell [www.5ifty5ive.com/les-carbonell/](http://www.5ifty5ive.com/les-carbonell/).

During his remarks, Ambassador James Costos noted that, "Tonight we are celebrating the work that we do together every day to advance common goals in promoting trade and investment, job creation, security and defense, travel and tourism, entrepreneurship, a better outlook for our future leaders, and so much more. The ties between us have never been stronger."



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