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Instructor's Name

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Date

Casual Elegance

Past the small town square and down the busy Main Street of Harrison, Arkansas, is a small Spanish-style building called the Hotel Seville. The Seville's architectural beauty attracts many people passing by, and their strong curiosity pushes them to come and view this majestic building. There are many interesting aspects of this building, such as its detailed exterior, its incredible interior, its quaint Italian restaurant that is rarely visited, and its small bar.

The Seville seems more likely to be located in the center of a little town in the outskirts of Madrid than in the modern city of Harrison. The orange clay-tile roofing and the orange-colored bricks that the whole building is made of give the hotel a color that is brighter than all the buildings surrounding it, and it won't fail to catch anyone's attention. Its purple and orange columns facing the road are intertwined and look like a licorice-twisted foundation for a tiny candy house. On each corner of the building are small castle-like towers, each having a carved and painted lion, which most likely was the crest of the proud Spanish family who originally owned this magnificent building. The Hotel Seville is one of the oldest buildings still standing in the city of Harrison today, and it's amazing that it still remains so young and beautiful looking.

When first setting foot in the Hotel Seville, people might imagine the long nights of extravagant parties and dances that this ancient building hosted when it was younger. The black and gold checkerboard marble floors look as if they have been danced on for years without stopping, but they still give off a youthful glow as if the floors want the dancing to continue.

Hanging from the ceiling in the very middle of the room is a dimly lit chandelier that gives the deep room an eerie yet mystical glow.

Surrounding the middle of the hall are four pillars. These cave-like pillars appear to be holding the weight of all the upper floors, and on the ceiling around the chandelier are six tropical birds of green, red, and gold, painted as if they were flying on the dome-like ceiling. It is amazing to think of what this building was like at the height of its popularity.

When the restaurant and the bar are open, most of the hungry customers flock to the bar where they can enjoy a glass of white wine with their meal while the restaurant across the hall remains empty. The restaurant of the Hotel Seville is surrounded by enormous chapel-like windows that bathe the room in warm, cheery sunlight or a dark, romantic moonlight, depending on the time of day. Throughout the room are glass tables of every shape and size, laden with red and white tablecloths. A rose and a small candle are delicately placed on each table, beckoning someone to come and enjoy a delicious Italian meal. Even though the restaurant is the perfect atmosphere for fine dining, the only forms of life in this room are the ferns that grow wildly in the corners and the waitresses that bring the steaming food to the hungry people waiting patiently in the bar across the hall. This room is beautiful, and it's a shame it remains so lonesome.

After one sees the lobby and the restaurant of the Hotel Seville, visiting the bar is a dramatic change because it is more modern. Upon walking into the bar, an unknowing person would be paralyzed by an enormous force field of cigarette and cigar smoke. His eyes would be blinded by the neon signs that are placed in their designated places on the forest-green walls. Each day the regular customers come in to relax after a day's work, the jukebox against the wall blares classic rock anthems of the seventies and eighties, and the same pool shark hoards the table viciously. Occasionally, local musicians come and play their guitars to get away from their

usual hectic schedules and make a little spare cash from the tips they receive from the rich barflies. The bar is most known for its unique people and its laid-back atmosphere, and that is why people come back every week or maybe even every day.

The Hotel Seville is a historical monument and an important landmark and source of pride for the town of Harrison. It is an eye-opening place to visit, a magnificent place to have a quiet dinner, and a fun place to go to have a refreshing pitcher of beer with friends. This antique gem in a modern city reminds the people of Harrison of their heritage and their past. The Seville's casual elegance is an aspect of Harrison everyone passing through should recognize and experience.