

A few words from the INNspector



How to deal with *reredos*, *Churrigueresque*, *campanas*

Some words don't come trippingly off the tongue – especially when you're talking with tour guests. We deal with a few.

Reredos – While some sources give this as a French term for altar screen, it's long been in English usage, according to the authoritative Oxford English Dictionary (OED).

“Common during the 15th Century, rare in the 16th and from about 1550 appears to have been practically obsolete until revived in the 19th Century. . . . In a number of early examples, it is impossible to determine the precise sense intended,” says the OED. At times the word also meant a brazier for fireplace logs, the back or rear, and a piece of armor.

→ *Reredos* is a two-syllable word – that middle “e” is silent. Thus, re-r'dos.

But here's an out: Use the Spanish term, *retablo* (ray-tahb'-lo) – and of course the St. Francis Chapel's magnificent Reyes *retablo* can also be described simply as an altar screen, workaday as that may sound.

Churrigueresque – This mouthful is applied to a style of highly ornamented architecture inspired by José Benito de Churriguera (1665-1725) – a period called late Spanish baroque. If you've been to Spain you may have seen some Churrigueresque structures. If you've been to Balboa Park in San Diego, you've also seen such architecture. It was also highly popular in Mexico. Frank Miller's First Congregational Church has a tower in the *Churrigueresque* style.

To help in pronouncing the word, try a phrase with similar rhythm, like “Surely you jest!” *Chur – ri – gue – resque*. But if that catches in your throat, you can simply call it Spanish baroque.

Finally, *campanas*, as in the Inn’s open-air restaurant, Las Campanas. We sometimes hear docents putting a tilde on that word, making it “Las Campanías.” That would make the name of the restaurant “The Campaigns.” Campanas without the tilde means, of course, bells.



Casa del Prado in Balboa Park, San Diego, is a lavish re-invention of Spanish Baroque, or Churrigueresque, architecture.

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