PICASSO AND MÁLAGA
Picasso’s relationship with his native city was distant but nostalgic. Pablo Ruiz Picasso was born in Málaga's centrally located Plaza de la Merced on 25 October 1881. Ten years later he left with his family for La Coruña. For three years he returned to Málaga during the summer; his last visit to the city dates from Christmas 1900 in the company of his friend, the painter Carlos Casagemas. Having spent three weeks enjoying café-concerts in the city and visiting relatives, Picasso left Málaga in January 1901, never to return. He was nineteen and at that point embarked on a career that was marked by success in Barcelona and subsequently in France. After half a century away from Spain, Picasso was contacted by Juan Temboury Álvarez, a local intellectual, who would keep him up to date on life in Málaga. In 1931, in an article entitled “Málaga and the Painter Picasso,” published in the May issue of the magazine Málaga, Temboury emphasised how important it was for the city not to forget the artist.

THE COLLECTION
Picasso’s desire to offer his native city part of the fruit of his artistic endeavours materialised through the generous and firm commitment on the part of his daughter-in-law and grandchild to donate the works that make up the Collection, and the dynamic, culturally motivated political decision taken by the Andalusian authorities to construct the Museum. These elements have happily come together in the form of the Fundación Museo Picasso Málaga. Legado Paul, Christine and Bernard Ruiz-Picasso, created on 13 December 2009. The Fundación guarantees the permanent presence of the artist and his aesthetic influence in Málaga through a group of works that attest to Picasso’s importance in the history of Western art.

In particular, Picasso’s fundamental contribution to the 20th century stems from his transformation of the work of art into an expression that vindicates absolute individual liberty in the face of conventions, rules, manifestos and dogmas. Picasso switched from one style to another with unparalleled ease. He interpreted and played down the canons developed by the great masters of the past, and manipulated stereotypes and myths of bourgeois culture, opting to bestow dignity on quotidian anecdotes and short stories that became great visual poems in his hands. Picasso was an artist who rethought the history of painting and thus revolutionised the fundamental and previously untouchable principles of representation. He demolished once and for all the hierarchical humanistic relationships in which the representation of the human form was more important than that of the object.

THE BUENAVENTURA PALACE AND THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE
The Palacio de los Condes de Buenaventura, a Renaissance building with Mudéjar elements that is home to the Museo Picasso Málaga, was declared a National Monument in 1939. It has been enlarged with a series of modern structures that extend in the manner of a traditional white Andalusian village towards the Arabic fortress and the Roman Theatre. In addition, in the suburb of the Palace there is an archeological site with remains of 7th-century BC Phoenician Málaga as well as elements dating from various periods of the Roman era and parts of the old, Golden Age building.